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### REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

*The Rural Life of England.* By William Howitt, author of "The Book of the Seasons," &c. London, Longman and Co.

BEFORE proceeding to notice these volumes, we must call the author to account for an unwarrantable assertion which he has set forth in his Preface. None have lifted their voices louder than the *Literary Gazette* against the wholesale system of piracy which is carried on in the present day, and which we earnestly desire to see speedily stopped, by measures as rigid as those which are adopted for the preservation of every other property. We condemn it, as being utterly dishonest, and not only injurious to both author and publisher in a pecuniary point of view, but also militating against literature itself. Neither are we any advocates for those wide plans of acknowledged compilation, which are now so frightfully increasing: they are but robberies perpetrated in the open daylight, deeds done without a mask; and, for our part, we have no more respect for the man who takes our purse, and confesses the crime, than for him who filches it in the dark.

Mr. Howitt has, perhaps, as he says, great reasons for complaining against the many piracies which have been committed on his "Book of the Seasons." Literature is a kind of high sea, upon which every one thinks he has a right to flag his vessel; but the outcry certainly comes with less grace from the complainant, when he has himself been guilty of the selfsame delinquencies.

Many, very many pages of his work, from which Mr. Howitt charges others with the guilt of extracting without acknowledgment, he himself has printed from different authors without acknowledgment!!! We should not have brought this charge against him, had he not asserted in his Preface that—

"In availing myself of occasional passages from the works of contemporaries, I have but one simple rule; and that is, uniformly to acknowledge the loan. It is a glorious rule, 'to do as you would be done by:' and I regret to have to complain that that golden rule has not been very nicely observed towards me. 'The Book of the Seasons' has been, by several writers, freely drawn upon for descriptions of nature, and the seasons, without the slightest acknowledgment."

With as much reluctance as the author professes in having made these remarks do we proceed to substantiate our statement: which is the more unpleasant, since Mr. H. is a member of a society who (in spite of their few peculiarities), have seldom been doubted in their "Yea, yea," and "Nay, nay." It is not our intention to go through the whole of his work to point out the numerous passages which he has adopted; and, indeed, they could scarcely be crammed into the space of one Number of the *Literary Gazette*. We will simply confine ourselves to a page or so of his "Book of the Seasons;" and, not having "Aikin's Calendar of Nature" at hand, we will test our extracts by "Forster's Perennial Calendar," an octavo volume, published by Harding, Mavor, and Lepard, in 1824. The month, in each of the works, shall be February,

from which we will shew how Mr. Howitt has adhered to this "golden rule!!!"

"Moles go to work in throwing up their hillocks as soon as the earth is softened. Under some of the largest, a little below the surface of the earth, they make their nests of moss, in which four or five young are found at a time. These animals live on worms, insects, and the roots of plants. They do much mischief in gardens, by loosening and devouring flowerroots; but, in the fields, they seem to do no other damage than rendering the surface of the ground unequal by their hillocks, which obstruct the ploughing. They are said also to pierce the sides of dams and canals, and let out the water."

*Aikin's Calendar of Nature;* also, *Forster's Perennial Calendar.* February 1824. Page 48.

"The woodlark, one of our earliest and sweetest songsters, renews his note; the thrush sings; turkey-cocks strut and gobble; partridges begin to pair; the house-pigeon has young; field-cricket open their holes; and wood-owls hoot; gnats play about, and insects swarm under sunny hedges; the stone-curlew clamours; and frogs croak. By the latter end of February, the raven has generally laid its eggs, and begun to sit. About the same time the green woodpecker is first heard in the woods making a loud noise. The elder-tree begins to put forth its flower-buds; and the catkins of the hazel are very conspicuous in the hedges. The gooseberry-bush, and the red currant, shew their young leaves about the end of the month." — *Forster's Perennial Calendar.* Edition, 1824. February. Pg. 54, 55.

These are specimens of that "simple and uniform rule, in acknowledging the loan" from other authors, to which Mr. Howitt professes his adherence; and a fair one too, considering that we have only copied from two pages of his work, and that neither of the passages in his volume have even the honour of a poor inverted comma, much less the name of the author from whom they have been plundered. Did our limits admit of it, we could produce a score or two of similar examples, many of them scarcely varying a word from the works whence they have been taken, without the slightest acknowledgment.

But these remarks are irrelevant to our present purpose; and had Mr. Howitt thrown down his gauntlet with less bravado and more truth, it would not have been taken up by us.

A more egotistical Dedication and Preface we never read. We find no fault with Mr. Howitt for inscribing the volumes to his worthy parents; but, on the contrary, admire the feelings which prompted him to so natural and praiseworthy an act; but, assuredly, it was unwise and egotistical, and, moreover, bears not a little of the braggadocio upon its face to say that, owing to them, he has gone "onward in

life, scorning whatever is mean, aspiring after whatever is generous and noble, loving the poor and the weak, and fearless of the strong," in such a tone of self-exultation as is at once vainglorious and ridiculous. — *Vide Dedication, page 7.* Happy the man who can press his pillow with such thoughts as these! But are they not thoughts that ought to slumber within the heart, be dwelt upon and looked at in secret, like the choicest treasures? Are they not what Coleridge calls

"Things to be dreamed of, not to tell,"

instead of being vamped forth, and swaggered about in print, and thrust under the very nose of a reader? Bah! Such expressions ought only to have been whispered in a parent's own ear; they might have enhanced the gift and the Dedication had they been recorded in an enclosed note; but, to push them forth in print is proclaiming to the world, "I am not a mean man! I belong only to the generous and the noble! I love the poor and the weak! I fear not the strong! I have striven more for an independent spirit and a pure conscience than wealth!" This is any thing but adhering to that beautiful text of Scripture, where it is written, "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Nor is there a tittle less of boasting in the Preface, where he speaks of whatever favours have been shewn him by the press, have been shewn to his works alone, without any respect to himself. We know many better writers than Mr. Howitt, and have heard them acknowledge, that it is to the kind feeling of the press they owe their advance, more than to the merit of their writings; and, although we may have believed differently, still they sunk not in our estimation through so modest a confession. But on this subject we will forbear, and go to our next business, which is with the body of the book.

*The Rural Life of England* is a pleasant work, abounding with much interesting matter, both original, and selected from almost every known and popular writer. Several of the illustrations are very beautiful and spirited, and reflect the highest credit on Mr. Williams's talents. The author's own remarks on Bewick's woodcuts are also very entertaining; but we think he goes too far in asserting, that we have no good artists to do justice to country subjects; nor ought he to have omitted the name of Mr. Lambert amongst the designers for woodcuts in the present day; for several of that gentleman's sketches for "Miller's Beauties of the Country" are very beautiful, and have been highly appreciated.

One great deficiency in Mr. Howitt's book is, that he cannot hit off a character; he tells his anecdotes well enough, and his descriptions are always pretty; but, when he attempts to describe an individual, his pen fails. There are none of those master-strokes which Washington Irving dabs on so thickly, making every object stand out like a Gainsborough or a Morland; none of those neat quizzes which Miss Mitford so happily puts forth; he is in general too lofty and too solemn. His country dames are not bustling enough: they move too stately from superintending the cooking

to the dairy; they want that quick motion, from rubbing their hands on their coarse aprons, after feeding the hogs, to giving the meat a turn, bouncing among the pots and pans, then being up to the elbows in pastry. His men lack that heavy rocking gait which distinguishes the true "clod-hopper," the slouched hat, and quick twitching up of the waistband, when they say a good thing. The farmer's reception of his friends is too tame; true, there is enough of preparation as it regards food, but there are none of those hearty shaking of the hand, the thousand questions almost thrust forth in a breath, the sly chuck under the chin given by the honest old farmer to his neighbour's daughters, and the waggish leer while he inquires after young farmer such-a-one. The very mutton they eat ought to be ushered in with an account of how many pounds it weighed in the "quarter;" and the foaming ale with the number of gallons brewed to "the strike;" their mouths should be made to open for other purposes besides eating. But, in spite of these few drawbacks, *The Rural Life of England* is a valuable work, and cannot fail of becoming popular. It was our intention to have enriched the columns of the *Literary Gazette* with several extracts, but the length of the remarks which we have been compelled to make, and which were so justly called for, leave us under the necessity of concluding with the following brief quotation.

*"The Terrors of a Solitary House."*—The citizen who lives in a compact house in the centre of a great city, whose doors and windows are secured at night by bars, bolts, shutters, locks, and hinges of the most approved and patented construction; who, if he looks out of doors, looks upon splendid rows of lamps, upon human habitations all about him; whose house can only be assailed behind by climbing over the tops of other houses, or before, by eluding troops of passengers and watchmen, whom the smallest alarm would hurry to the spot: I say, if such a man could be suddenly set down in one of our many thousand country houses, what a feeling of unprotected solitude would fall upon him. To sit by the fire of many a farm-house or cottage, and hear the unopposed wind come sighing and howling about it; to hear the trees swaying and rustling in the gale, infusing a most forlorn sense of the absence of all neighbouring abodes; to look on the simple casements, and the old-fashioned locks and bolts, and to think what would their resistance be to the determined attack of bold thieves;—I imagine it would give many such worthy citizen a new and not very enviable feeling. But if we were to step out before the door of such a house at nine or ten o'clock of a winter or autumnal night, what a state of naked jeopardy it would seem to stand in! Perhaps, all solitary darkness;—nothing to be heard but the sound of neighbouring woods; or the roar of distant waters; or the baying of the ban-dogs at the scattered and far-off farm-houses; the wind coming puffing upon him with a wild freshness, as from the face of vast and solitary moors; or, perhaps, some gleam of moonlight, or the wild, lurid light which hovers in the horizon of a winter-night sky, revealing to him desolate wastes, or gloomy surrounding woods. In truth, there is many a sweet spot that, in summer weather, and, by fair daylight, do seem very parades; of which we exclaim, in passing, 'Ay! there could I live and die, and never desire to leave it!' There are thousands of such sweet places which, when night drops down, assume strange horrors, and make us wish for towers and towns,

watchmen, walkers of streets, and gaslight. One seems to have no security in any thing. A single house five or six miles from a neighbour. Mercy! why it is the very place for a murderer! What would it avail there to cry help! murder! Murder might be perpetrated a dozen times before help could come! Just one such fancy as that, and what a prison—a trap—does such a place become to a fearful heart! We look on the walls, and think them slight as card-board; on the roof, and it becomes in our eyes no better than a layer of rushes. If we were attacked here, it were all over! This gimcrack-tenement would be crushed in before the brawny hand of a thief. And to think of out-of-doors! Yes! of that pleasant out-of-doors, which in the day we glorified ourselves in. Those forest tracts of heath, and gorse, and flowering broom, where the trout hid themselves beneath the overhanging banks of the most transparent streams—ugh! they are now the very lurking-places of danger! What admirable concealment for liers-in-wait, are the deep beds of heather! How black do those bushes of broom and gorse look to a suspicious fancy! They are just the very things for lurking assassins to crouch behind. And what is worse, those woods! those woods that come straggling up to the very doors; putting forward a single tree here and there, as advanced guards of picturesque beauty in the glowing summer noon, or in the spring, when their leaves are all delicately new. Beauty! how could we ever think them beautiful, though we saw them stand in their assembled majesty; though they did tower aloft, with their rugged, gashed, and deeply indented stems, and make a sound as of many waters in their tops, and cast down pleasant shadows on the mossy turf beneath; and though the thrush and the nightingale did sing triumphantly in their thickets. Beautiful! they are horrible! Their blackness of darkness now makes us shudder. Their breezy roar is fearful beyond description. Let daylight, and summer sunshine come, and make them look as pleasant as they will, we would not have a wood henceforward within a mile of us. Why, up to the walls of your house, under your very windows, may evil eyes now be glaring from behind those sturdy boles;—they seem to have grown there just to suit the purposes of robbery and murder. We look now to the dogs and guns for assistance, but they give us but cold comfort: for the guns only remind us that at this moment the muzzle of one may be at that chink in the shutter, at that hole out of which a knot has dropped, and in another moment we are in eternity! And the dogs!—see, they rise! they set up the bristles on their backs! they growl! they bark! our fears are true! the place is beset!"

Having administered to the author the personal castigation provoked by his pharisaical pretences and egotistical conceit, we are not the less inclined to do justice to his work, and, therefore, conclude with repeating that it possesses many charms for the reader; and, as every reader loves rural scenery and character, must, at it deserves to do, become very popular.

*The Prisoners of Abd-el-Kader; or, Five Months' Captivity among the Arabs, in the Autumn of 1836.* By M. A de France. Translated by R. F. Porter. 12mo. pp. 321. London, 1838. Smith, Elder, and Co.

M. DE FRANCE was fregate-lieutenant (i.e. third officer of the brig Loiret), off the African coast, and, choosing, with some of his friends, to take a day's sporting ashore, was surprised by

the Arabs, and carried, or rather dragged, a prisoner to the camp of their famous leader, Abd-el-Kader. His narrative of the cruelties inflicted upon him and other prisoners, and his adventures and observations, though thoroughly French in style and spirit, will be read with interest at a time when French conquest and colonisation in the north of Africa offer so many points for individual and national reflection. From the slight materials of such a volume, all that we consider necessary is to select some of the traits which depict the Arab chief.

"Thirty negro slaves, who form the body-guard of Abd-el-Kader, surround his tent. They are never relieved, and have no other bed than the earth. A great number of chaous are always in attendance at the entrance, waiting the orders of their master. In the interior is an elevated stool, covered with red silk, of which Abd-el-Kader makes use in mounting his horse. There is also a small mattress, covered with a carpet, upon which are two cushions of red silk. A chest is placed at each end of the mattress, two other chests form the back, and a carpet covers the whole. All this forms the sofa of Abd-el-Kader. The boxes enclose his money and his clothes. A carpet, upon which strangers seat themselves, is spread upon the ground. I have now mentioned all the furniture and all the ornaments of the tent of Abd-el-Kader. I must describe the life, the character, the manners, the habits of this man, so badly known even to this day. After all I had heard said of him, I expected to see a barbarian, always ready to cut off heads—a tiger, thirsty for blood: my expectation was much deceived. Abd-el-Kader is twenty-eight years of age. He is little, being not more than five feet high; his face long, and of excessive paleness; his large black eyes are mild and caressing; his mouth small and graceful; his nose aquiline. His beard is thin, but very black. He wears a small moustache, which gives his features, naturally fine and benevolent, a martial air, which becomes him exceedingly. The ensemble of his physiognomy is sweet and agreeable. Mons. Bravais has told me, that an Arab chief, whose name I have forgotten, being one day on board the 'Loiret,' in the captain's state-room, exclaimed, on seeing the portrait of a woman, Isabeau de Baviere, whom the engraver had taken to personify Europe, 'There is Abd-el-Kader!' Abd-el-Kader has beautiful small hands and feet, and displays some coquetry in keeping them in order. He is always washing them. While conversing, squatted upon his cushions, he holds his toes in his fingers; or, if this posture fatigues him, he begins to pare, to clear the bottom of the nails with a knife and scissors, of which the mother-of-pearl handle is delicately worked, and which he has constantly in his hands. He affects an extreme simplicity in his dress. There is never any gold or brocade upon his bernous. He wears a shirt of very fine linen, the seams of which are covered with a silken stripe. Next to his shirt comes the haick. He throws over the haick two bernous of white wool, and upon the two white bernous a black one. A few silken tassels are the only ornaments which relieve the simplicity of his costume. He never carries any arms at his girdle." His feet are naked in his slippers. He has his head shaved, and his head-dress is composed of two or three Greek caps, the one upon the other, over which he

\* "I have seen at the print-sellers' shops a portrait of Abd-el-Kader—the face of Blue Beard—pistols and poniards in his belt. Abd-el-Kader in his camp never wears arms. They say, also, that he has very bad teeth; I never perceived it."

throws the hood of his berou. The father of Abd-el-Kader, who has been dead two years, was a marabout, named Mahidin, who, by his good fortune, his intelligence, his reputation for holiness, had obtained a great répute among the Arabs, and a great moral influence over the tribes. He had performed the journey to Mecc twice; he had twice prostrated himself before the tomb of the prophet. His son accompanied him on his second trip; he was then eight years of age. His youth did not prevent his seeing, observing, and profiting: he already knew how to write and read Arabic, and had also learned Italian. On their return from this pious expedition, Mahidin guided the youthful intelligence of his son in the difficult study of the Koran, at the same time that he instructed him in the practical part of business. The taking of Algiers occurred. As soon as we had concluded a peace with the Arabs, Abd-el-Kader laboured to excite the tribes, to nourish and envenom their resentments, to exalt their religious fanaticism, and, above all, to become their chief. The intelligence, the activity, the bravery, the address, the craft, of the young marabout, soon distinguished him among the tribes. The Arabs recognised the superiority that natural advantages assured him over them; they became accustomed by degrees to consider him their chief: to-day he is their sultan. \* \* \* \* \*

" Some days after my arrival in the camp of Abd-el-Kader, I was covered with lice. The Arabs are infested by these vermin; the sultan himself, in the midst of the most serious conversation, amuses himself in catching these animals on his haick, in rolling them gravely between his fingers, and throwing them on the carpet. I passed part of the day in company with Meurice, crouched in the sun, chasing these little insects. Fortunately, they did not take possession of either the hair of our heads or our beards; but they propagated by thousands upon every article of our dress. They are of a white colour and very large, and have a black streak on the back, which swells in proportion to the quantity of blood they have sucked from their unfortunate victims. They deposited their eggs in the seams of our trousers, which had a great resemblance to the lace which decorates the pantaloons of our *élégants*. The Arabs are so accustomed to them, that they take no pains to rid themselves of them; and when they observed Meurice and me in chase of these vermin, they attacked us with insults and railery."

A specimen of the writer's talent for exaggeration may be quoted on this rather disagreeable subject.

" In the middle of the evening, Bourgeois and Mardulin undressed Meurice, and, after having rolled the body in a carpet, carried it to the other corner of the room. They gave me the dress of the deceased. The vermin which were attached to the haick were so numerous and so thick, that, when placed against the wall, it stood upright, like a board !!!

Poor Meurice was a fellow-captive whose sufferings were terminated by death; for which as well as for his own ill-usage, M. de France breathes threats and execrations against the Arabs. But hear:

" Abd-el-Kader looked at me with a smile, and said, ' The Christians are fools; madmen: they wish to obtain possession of a country which is not theirs, and drive out the Arab, to whom it belongs. If the Christian was victorious, where, then, would the Arab go? Our plains, our silos, our fields, our flocks, our mountains, our tents, our horses, our wives,

our camels, would be yours. And what would become of the country in which you were born? Why leave it, and come where you have no business, where Mahomet has placed his people? Does your sultan know how to ride on horseback like Abd-el-Kader? Is your sultan as great, as holy as Abd-el-Kader? You are dogs! you never pray to God! Still, if you were satisfied with the coasts of Africa; if you restricted your occupation to Algiers, Oran, Bona, I might suffer you near me; for the sea does not belong to me; I have no vessels. But you wish the coasts, the plains, and the cities of the interior; you desire our mountains also. You are fools and madmen; you will never possess Arabia. The foot of our horse is lighter, and more certain than the foot of yours. You will die with disease in our mountains, and [to] those whom sickness shall not carry off, my horsemen will send death with their bullets. You see it is not us, but you, who are fools and madmen.'"

Even through French authorship and English translation, there is some startling truth in this quotation; but we turn from them to finish with an appalling picture of an execution. The wretch was one of the tribe of Beni-Flitas, who had rebelled against Abd-el-Kader.

" Scarcely had Abd-el-Kader dismounted, when they led the prisoner into his tent. ' You have been taken among the rebels? ' ' Yes.' ' What have you to say to justify yourself? ' ' They have compelled me to fight against you. ' ' You should have escaped, and then joined our camp.' ' But—' ' Enough.' Abd-el-Kader raised his hand; the unhappy man was condemned to death. The chaous dragged him from the tent. One of the chaous had lost his son in the contest; he had seen his head fixed to the saddlebow of one of the Beni-Flitas. With loud shouts, and tears in his eyes, he entreated the favour from the other chaous of being allowed to execute the prisoner alone. The chaous, at last, yielded to his wishes. He then threw himself upon the Beni-Flitas and cut off his hands and feet. The children, at this horrible sight, filled the air with their shouts of joy. The unfortunate man rolled in the dust, calling upon his executioners, with heart-rending cries, to end his life. But the father continued his vengeance for the death of his son; he listened neither to the prayers nor groans of the dying man: the sight of the blood which reddened the earth, the hideous contortions of the tortured man, the shrill exclamations he uttered from pain and rage, afforded him a horrible delight. At length, when the Beni-Flitas, from the loss of blood, remained as if he had fainted, the chaous passed a cord round his loins, and dragged him, thus mutilated, a few paces from the boundaries of the camp. The children collected branches of trees and some brambles, and set fire to them; the chaous then cast the Beni-Flitas, still breathing, upon the funeral pile! I heard, for a long time, groans and piercing cries. The night had come on. The flame from the pile spread a dull and sinister light to the very centre of the camp. The tents cast long shadows. More than one horseman, seated at his horse's feet, groaned over the events of the day. All around me breathed sorrow and desolation. The flame shone some time longer. The Beni-Flitas struggled with death; his groans became less frequent; they rose, from time to time, like a mournful voice in the midst of night and darkness. ' Oh,' cried I, covering my head with my haick, ' when will the day come when I shall no longer be a spectator of these barbarous and bloody scenes, which occur

in the middle of this camp, at a few leagues from the stations occupied by the soldiers of our noble and generous nation! ?'

Perhaps the Arabs, after the sacking of Constantine, would not be exactly of M. de France's opinions; but the gift is as rarely given to nations as to individuals to see themselves as others see them.

*The Miseries and Beauties of Ireland.* By Jonathan Binns, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner of the late Irish Poor Inquiry. 2 vols. London, 1838. Longman and Co.

THERE is something droll-sounding in a work upon a country from a gentleman who had been engaged on a "poor inquiry," and we do not know that our author has gone very deep into it. He has however traversed the land and seen a good deal, and told us in an easy off-hand manner, what were the impressions made upon his mind, by a view of what he is pleased (and a fair book-title it is) to call "the Miseries and Beauties of Ireland." In other respects, his acquaintance with agricultural subjects enables him to offer many sensible observations towards the local and general improvement of Ireland, in that most important branch; and his whole tour, even including what he has picked up of small novelty, is one which may be read with some degree of pleasure and advantage.

Without adventuring to follow route after route, and visit place after place, with Mr. Binns, we shall satisfy ourselves and, we trust, our readers, with a few illustrations of his manner and capacity. The following, for instance, is rather a strange passage.

" On my return from Kilkeel I walked alone, late in the evening, over the summits of some of the mountains as far as Hilltown, a distance of several miles, and, though the country was then in a disturbed state, met with every civility. I feel confident, indeed, that I could have gone anywhere in the neighbourhood, day or night, without interruption, and with even less risk than would be incurred, at the same time, in most parts of England."

This is rather proving too much; for, surely, there are very few parts of England where any danger whatever is to be apprehended in an evening walk, and certainly none to be compared with a wild and a disturbed Irish district: though we agree with the author, that strangers have the least to fear in such situations. But the following is more to the purpose (at Rathfriland, in examining the barony of Upper Ivagh).

" In summer, labourers usually get one shilling a day without diet, or eightpence with it; and in winter, tenpence without, or sixpence with diet. At particular periods, such as harvest and turf-cutting, they get something more. The rate of wages has latterly decreased; twenty years ago they were 1s. 8d. per day. When corn is shorn by the acre, which is not frequent, they receive 10s. per Irish acre (by corn they mean oats), or 6s. 2d. English. They would prefer task-work, because they could work several hours earlier and later. Besides, they could then employ their families. All the labourers here agreed, and nobody contradicted them, that the utmost a man could earn, one day with another, did not exceed sixpence a day without diet. From the clearing in of potatoes in November, to the sowing of corn in March, and again till the hay time, they are wholly unemployed. Many of the labourers in this district assemble at the market-house in Rathfriland in the morning, and, if they be not

called out early to work, they will shortly take any thing rather than go home idle! This is especially the case with men advanced beyond the prime of life. 'Steady employment,' said one of the witnesses, Hamilton Fisher, 'is better than a sudden rise of wages; the want of it is the curse of the country, and the cause of distress and irregularity.'

Most cordially do we agree with this; and all Mr. Binns's after inquiry proves it most irrefragably. Regular employment and fair wages are the first grand stepping stones to the amelioration of Ireland; and, as *first steps*, far beyond education, tithe repeal, poor laws, emigration, and all the other favourite specifics put together.

Among the miseries of Ireland, Mr. Binns states the following:

"Many instances of great destitution and misery were related to me. Mr. Bolton mentioned a distressing circumstance that had come within his own experience a short time before. A poor widow, a Roman Catholic, having lost her son, applied to him for the loan of five shillings to pay the priest for blessing the clay, as she could not bear the idea of burying her son without this benediction. The desired sum was, of course, willingly supplied, and the poor creature's heart leapt for joy, as she exclaimed, 'I can now bury my dear son.' Poverty is felt to be, indeed, a terrible power, when it is the means of withholding from the dead the respectful tribute of surviving friends."

Mr. Bolton is the agent of Lord Stanley, one of the best and kindest landlords in Ireland; but the oddness of the quotation is, that Mr. Binns does not seem to perceive that the misery was caused by the cruel exaction of a hard-hearted priest, levied on the conscience of a poor ignorant bigot. He has failed to point his moral. To do justice to his more general views, we may notice that he attributes the distresses and crimes of Ireland to ages of English misgovernment.

"This state of things (he says), so truly deplorable, whether regarded in a moral or a physical point of view, is exclusively referable to the systematic course of partiality, oppression, and cruelty, with which her people have been treated through successive centuries; and, if it were my object to represent the injuries that have been done, rather than to dwell upon the prospect of good things to come, I might, by referring to authentic sources of information, draw a series of terrific pictures of persecution, intolerance, and desolation, to which it would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to find parallels in the history of any nation not absolutely barbarous. It becomes us, who are in some degree responsible for the misdeeds of our predecessors, and are certainly bound to repair the evils they have effected; it becomes us, I repeat, to bear constantly in mind, that ever since her connexion with Great Britain, Ireland has been a grievously oppressed country; that, for the ignoble purpose of extinguishing her religion, and seizing upon the property of its votaries, she has been deprived of those political privileges which were her right; and which, sooner or later, shew ill possess; that, so far from the Irish being naturally a turbulent people, they are made so by circumstances under the control of England; and that, dissatisfied as they are and have been, the wrongs they have endured, the insults they have suffered, would have justified a course of conduct incomparably more violent than any which Ireland, even in her most excited moments, in her wildest paroxysms of resentment, has displayed. The terms of the Union, let us re-

member, promised an equality of civil rights, and, until those terms are rigidly complied with, Ireland never will, and Ireland never ought to be, a contented country."

On this most debatable ground we shall not enter, but, leaving the bygone, pass to matter which regards the possible future:—

"The moist and genial climate, and the mellow and fertile soil of Ireland, peculiarly adapt that country to the growth of hemp and flax, and the production of abundance of milk and butter. The latter, indeed, has always been a staple commodity. Mr. Blacker thinks the duty upon the foreign import of these articles ought to be so much advanced as to make them equal to the present duty on grain. This would have an almost immediate tendency to bring more land into cultivation, and ultimately to reduce the price of the articles protected. Mr. Blacker states, that the country pays annually for foreign butter, tallow, hemp, and tobacco, in round numbers, 6,000,000*l.*; besides many minor articles, all, or most part of which, might be produced at home. We have seen, that the protection of corn-laws has enabled the British farmer to produce a sufficiency of grain for home consumption; and, if the previously mentioned articles were equally protected, we should, I doubt not, have a supply adequate to our necessities: under this plan, not only would more land be brought into cultivation (in consequence of which, the prices, as I have before said, would be diminished), but that already cultivated would be improved, by reason, first, of the improved mode of feeding cattle, and, secondly, of the necessarily additional number of cows. As agriculture became extended, the labour of the people would be in greater demand: they would, accordingly, receive better wages, and be enabled to live on better food: and it is a self-evident proposition, that the better the food on which a people live, the more the produce is increased—because the more cattle and sheep that are kept upon the land, the more that land is enriched; provided, of course, the food of the cattle, and the manure, be economically husbanded and judiciously applied. Corn and cattle, like agriculture and manufactures, operate favourably towards each other. The more cattle the more corn; and, on the other hand, the increase of corn augments the means of subsistence, both for cattle and man. The increased and improved cultivation of land in Ireland must, I am firmly persuaded, form one of the principal remedies for the singularly depressed state of that country. Under a proper system of agriculture more than double the present population might find profitable employment; and, when agriculture and manufactures go hand in hand, as they unquestionably will, if not unfairly interfered with, profitable occupation for four or five times the number of hands at present employed will, I feel well assured, be provided. In hazarding this assertion, startling as it may appear to some, I am perfectly convinced that I speak within compass; and, having bestowed much of my time upon agricultural pursuits for the last thirty years, I may, perhaps, without incurring a charge of undue presumption, be allowed to feel confidence on subjects to which so much of my attention has been necessarily devoted. Let any one who may be inclined to question the accuracy of my suggestion, as to the probability of the produce of Ireland being at least quadrupled, look at the miserable state of the land at present under cultivation (if, indeed, it deserve the name of cultivation)—the ground covered with weeds—in want of draining—deprived of manure—having, at the

best of times, but a scanty allowance of bad seed, and sometimes none—the farmer with the rudest implements, and ignorant of any proper system of farming—deficient in even a poor description of cattle—possessing very few sheep—the bailiffs, or 'drivers,' regularly pensioned upon him, whether he pays his rent or not, and attending him to market, to prevent him appropriating to his own use the money for his produce! Let him cast his eye, as he travels through the country, over the immense bogs and waste lands which are every where to be seen; and, after observing these things, he cannot fail to be convinced that Ireland might easily be made to yield four or five times as much grain, cattle, butter, hemp, and flax, as she does at present. Nor has the British land-owner, or farmer, any reason to feel alarmed at this prospect. A great part of the additional produce must be consumed by the population of Ireland; this is a certain consequence of the improved cultivation of the country. Where, I would ask—where are now the immense numbers of shoemakers and tailors, blacksmiths and carpenters, coachmakers and saddlers, with a great variety of trades and professions which I need not stay to particularise, but which will necessarily be called into existence and operation, as the increase of industry and capital is created?"

May all such auspicious anticipations be speedily fulfilled!

*The Life of Thomas Chatterton; including his unpublished Poems and Correspondence.*  
By John Dix. Pp. 336. London, 1833.

CHATTERTON has been in his grave nearly seventy years, and the *fatuus* light of his song chiefly remembered by its singular blaze and wild irregular flickering: when, at length, we are gratified to see a strong local feeling arise to record the circumstances of his life, and raise a lasting monument to his memory.\* Genius is a rare product of human nature; and genius ought never to be forgotten. Every phase of hers is useful as well as impressive lesson to all mankind.

The early years of Chatterton were wayward and strange. As a child, he would not learn his alphabet, but was induced to the love of letters by seeing them in pictured forms. Thus, even in the infancy of instruction, have we a proof of the advantage of the arts; and, to the end, the liberal and philosophic observer can trace their intimate connexion, and perceive how much the one may be employed to promote the cultivation of the other. The advocates for dry tuition may take a hint from that which first stimulated and directed the mind of a Chatterton.

His school-days were brief but remarkable, and his precocity as a poet is shewn by many instances of boyish composition. At twelve years of age he appears to have read a good deal, and to have closely studied some celebrated authors. Indeed, there is every reason to believe that the famous Rowley manuscripts were begun at, or soon after, his attaining this age. He prepared himself by inventing pedigrees of most curious and plausible character, an account of some of which is given by Mr. Dix. On leaving school, he was bound apprentice to an attorney, and in his office had

\* Our last Nos. have contained an advertisement of the subscription for a monument to Chatterton in St. Mary Redcliffe Church, Bristol, which we are rather surprised, considering the wealth of that city, his birthplace, has not more rapidly filled. A subscription of five guineas from Mr. Fripp, the mayor, has, we understand, been accidentally omitted.—Ed. T. C.

much idle time upon his hands, which he probably occupied in writing poetry; all which his master destroyed, as being decidedly *illegal*. He, however, began to write for periodicals; and, at the age of sixteen, commenced that series of papers from the pseudo old MSS. in the muniment chest in Redclyffe Church which will hand his name down to the latest posterity.

Into the well-known Rowleyan controversy and Chatterton's quarrel with Horace Walpole it is unnecessary for us to enter, but we cannot refrain from copying some hitherto unpublished lines on the subject, in which the indignant boy resents the contemptuous treatment he had received.

*"To Horace Walpole."*

Walpole, I thought not I should ever see  
So mean a heart as thine hast proved to be.  
Thou who, in luxury nur'd, beholdest, with scorn,  
The boy who, friendless, fatherless, forlorn,  
Asks thy high favour—thou mayst call me cheat.  
Say, didst thou never practise such deceit?  
Who wrote "Otranto?" But I will not chide:  
Scorn I'll repay with scorn, and pride with pride.  
Still, Walpole, still thy profligate chapters write;  
And twaddling letters to some fair inmate;  
Laud all above thee, fawn and cringe to those  
Who for thy fame were better friends than foes;  
Still spurn the incautious fool who dares—

\* \* \*

Had I the gifts of wealth and luxury shared,  
Not poor and mean, Walpole! thou hadst not dared  
Thus to insult. But I shall live and stand  
By Rowley's side when thou art dead and damned.—T.C.

The details of the controversy alluded to are followed by a corrected copy of Chatterton's satirical poem, "Kew Gardens;" and by the reprint of political letters, after the manner of Junius, from the "Middlesex Journal" of 1770. After being above two years and nine months in Mr. Lambert, the attorney's office, that gentleman dismissed him, and he was reduced to great distress; but found means to proceed to London.

"Most of his friends and acquaintance, according to Mr. Barrett, contributed a guinea each towards his journey to London, where he arrived on the 25th April, 1770; and his patron adds, 'he there settled, but carried his libertine principles with him.' What kind of libertinism Mr. Barrett refers to I know not; there is abundant evidence to prove that Chatterton was not the character some have represented him to have been. During his stay with Lambert, it is stated by Mrs. Newton and Mrs. Thistleton, that he was 'exemplary in his habits'; and, for three years, he was never once found out of the office at the stated hours of attendance; and only once exceeded the family hours, which was at Christmas, when he passed the evening with a party of friends under the roof of his mother, whose indulgence detained him until the hour of eleven. As a son and a brother, his conduct was most exemplary. His leisure hours were spent beneath his mother's roof; and Mrs. Newton, in her painfully interesting letter, declares her conviction that 'he was no debauchee, though some had reported it.' Many attacks have been made on the moral character of Chatterton: that he had faults cannot be denied; but if the statements put forth by his accusers are correct, he must have indeed been a monster of iniquity. The boy who wrote the following beautiful lines could scarcely have been an infidel; and if some of his poems exhibit a certain looseness of diction, we must remember that such language was partially tolerated in the times in which they were written:—

*"The Resignation."*

O God, whose thunder shakes the sky,  
Whose eye this atom globe surveys;  
To thee, my only rock, I fly,  
Thy mercy in thy justice praise.

The mystic mazes of thy will,  
The shadows of celestial light,  
Are past the pow'r of human skill—  
But what th' Eternal act is right.

O teach me in the trying hour,  
When anguish swells the dewy tear,  
To still my sorrows, own thy power,  
Thy goodness love, thy justice fear!

If in this bosom aught but Thee  
Incroaching sought a boundless sway,

Omniscience could the danger see,

And Mercy look the cause away.

Then why, my soul, dost thou complain?

Why drooping seek the dark recess?

Shake off the melancholy chain,

For God created all to bless.

But ah! my breast is human still;

The ahing sigh, the falling tear,

My languid vital feeble rill,

The sickness of my soul declare.

But yet, with fortitude resign'd,

I'll thank th' inflicter of the blow:

Forbid the sigh, compose my mind,

Nor let the gush of misery flow.

The gloomy mantle of the night,

Which on my sinking spirit steals,

Will vanish at the morning light

Which God, my East, my Sun, reveals."

On this statement and defence any remarks of ours would be supererogatory. In London, during his brief existence of about three months, he became a contributor to magazines and journals; and his correspondence at this period is very interesting and characteristic. His payments from the *Trade* were wretchedly low—"Sixteen songs, 10s. 6d." is one of the receipts!!

"Four pounds fifteen and ninepence (says Mr. Dix) for four months' literary labour! But the worst is yet to be told. In the same book, at a period a little preceding his starvation and death, has recorded (who can tell with what agony of mind?) that the various publishers owed him ten pounds, nineteen shillings, and sixpence. In the depth of his distress and poverty, he addressed a letter to his former friend, Mr. Barrett, in which he applied to him for a recommendation to the appointment of surgeon's mate to Africa. This was refused, and his last hope forsook him; but his native unconquerable pride still remained. Reduced to extreme indigence, he yet shrank from incurring obligations from strangers. Mrs. Angel stated, that for two days, when he did not absent himself from his room, he went without sustenance of any kind; on one occasion, when she knew him to be in want of food, she begged he would take a little dinner with her; he was offended at the invitation, of which he hinted he was not in want, and assured her he was not hungry. Mr. Cross, also, an apothecary in Brook Street, gave evidence that he repeatedly pressed Chatterton to dine or sup with him; and when, with great difficulty, he was one evening prevailed on to partake of a barrel of oysters, he was observed to eat most voraciously. Three days before his death, when walking in company with a friend in St. Pancras' churchyard, reading the epitaphs, he was so deep in thought as he walked on, that not perceiving a grave which was just dug, he fell into it; his friend observing his situation came to his assistance, and as he helped him out, told him, in a jocular manner, he was happy in beholding the resurrection of genius. Poor Chatterton smiled, and taking his companion by the arm, replied, 'My dear friend, I feel the sting of a speedy dissolution. I have been at war with the grave for some time, and find it is not so easy to vanquish as I imagined; we can find an asylum from every creditor but that.' His friend endeavoured to divert his thoughts from the gloomy reflection; but what will not melancholy and adversity subjugate?"

How dreadful the catastrophe!—On the 24th of August, 1770, Thomas Chatterton, at the age of seventeen years and nine months, overcome by despair and distress, terminated his clouded career by swallowing poison; according to the best authorities, arsenic in water, and died in consequence the next day. His room, when broken open, was found covered with little scraps of paper, and all his unfinished pieces were cautiously destroyed before his death. An inquest was held on his body, and he was interred in the burying-ground of Shoe Lane workhouse."

Alas, alas! but we will not interfere with the good feelings of our author, who says:

"Whatever may have been the faults of Chatterton, let it be remembered that he was but a boy. Where is there one who has died so young, whose fame has survived so long? And it is but a fair presumption, that had he received half the patronage enjoyed by many far less deserving, he would have lived to have realised those ardent expectations excited by the perusal of his works—he would have lived to have merged the foibles of his early years in the splendour of enlightened manhood; they say, 'best men are moulded out of faults;' he would have lived to have nobly earned, and proudly claimed, a most conspicuous elevation on the poetic mount."

We will add nothing of our own; but, to shew how consistently the present author has come forward as the biographer of his fellow-citizen, we have pleasure in appending some congenial and original poetry of his own.

*Lines on seeing a Painting of the North Porch of St. Mary Redcliffe Church, Bristol, with the Room in which the Rowley MSS. were said to have been found by Chatterton.*

On the tablet shadow the name  
Of him who early died;  
He built his one great monument,  
Thee perish'd in his pride.  
But, for the wonder of his kind,  
The dwellers in the world of mind  
A shrine within their hearts have built,  
Scorning the hackneyed theme; his guilt!  
Painter! 'tis well and wisely done—  
Who, gazing on each ruin'd stone,  
Mourns not the doom of Chatterton?  
His were the visions of the past—  
Here inspiration came—  
And every fragment, black and old,  
Is vocal with his fame.  
Beneath thy shade, St. Mary's tower!  
He lingered at the evening hour,  
And as he watch'd the mellow ray  
From some old statue fade away,  
He saw in fancy's magic glass  
The monks and friars in dark array  
And lengthened train before him pass,  
Or seem'd to hear the vesper hymn,  
Peal through the arches vast and dim.  
Great minds have honoured him, whose lyre  
Such magic music gave!—  
Keats,\* who beneath the walls of Rome,  
Too early found a grave;  
Shelley,† who as with spirit-eye  
Discerned his solemn agony;  
And Coleridge,‡ who in mystic dreams  
Wand'red by Susquehanna's streams,  
Lov'd him, and mourn'd his hapless fate:—  
Too early lost—beloved too late.

I wonder not, yet mourn that he  
Should darkly turn away  
From waking pain to dreamless sleep,  
No kind or cheering ray  
Shone o'er him—all his path below  
Was overgloomed by clouds of wo;  
When hope like rainbow colours passed,  
Too bright, too beautiful to last,  
His daring hand unstrung the lyre;  
Yet shall its music never die,  
But he with all those sons of fire,  
Who with a master's magic spell  
Have struck the minstrel's harp so well,  
Shall share an immortality.  
Be theirs who deserve his name,  
A lasting heritage of shame."

JOHN DIX.

\* Keats dedicated "Endymion" to the memory of Chatterton.

† "Chatterton rose pale,

His solemn agony had not yet faded."

‡ See Coleridge's "Monody on Chatterton."

Having not only alluded to the Rowleian controversy, but given place to Chatterton's sharp attack on Walpole, it is but justice to the memory of the latter to say that we cannot consider him amenable to the charge brought against him. The whole case is ably and passionately stated by Mr. John Britton, in his "Architectural Essay on Redclyffe Church" (8vo, Longman and Co., 1813), and he completely exonerates Walpole from every serious inculpation. The same volume, we may add, contains much curious matter relating to the church, and very interesting in regard to poor Chatterton.

*Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians.*

Second notice.

HAVING in our last bestowed such notice as our limits allowed, on some of the useful arts and sports of the Egyptians, we shall now turn to some few passages which relate to their games or amusements.

"It was a custom of the Egyptians, during, or, according to Herodotus, after their repasts, to introduce a wooden image of Osiris, from one foot and a half to three feet in height, in the form of a human mummy, standing erect, as Plutarch informs us, in a case, or lying on a bier, and to shew it to each of the guests, warning him of his mortality, and of the transitory nature of human pleasures. He was reminded that some day he would be like that figure; that men ought 'to love one another, and avoid those evils which tend to make them consider life too long, when in reality it is too short'; and, while enjoying the blessings of this world, to bear in mind that their existence was precarious, and that death, which all ought to be prepared to meet, must eventually close their earthly career. Thus, while the guests were permitted, and even exhorted, to indulge in conviviality, the pleasures of the table, and the mirth so congenial to their lively disposition, the prudent solicitude of the priests did not fail to watch over their actions, and, by this salutary hint, to shew them the propriety of putting a certain degree of restraint upon their conduct; and, by avoiding any indiscreet prohibition of those amusements in which men will indulge in spite of mistaken zeal (too often dictated by a mind devoid of experience, and frequently of sincerity), these guardians of morality obtained the object they had in view, without appearing to interfere. If, as was necessarily the case, all the guests were not impressed with the same feelings by the introduction of this moral sentiment, the custom was not thereby rendered in any degree objectionable, since the salutary lesson neglected loses not its merit; and, however it may have been corrupted by others, who adopted the external form without the true feeling of the original, it must be confessed that the object was good and deserving of commendation. Perverted by the Greeks, this warning of the temporary pilgrimage of man served as an inducement to enjoy the pleasures of life while in this world, as if death closed the scene, and no prospect was held out of a future existence; a notion directly at variance with the maxims of the Egyptians, and the constant mindfulness they were exhorted to cherish of a hereafter: and we find that the Greeks advocated the principle 'Live while you may,' with unblushing earnestness. The beauties of poetry were summoned to assist in its recommendation, and every lover of excess welcomed and adopted it, with sentiments evincing the same spirit as the exhortation of Trimachis; which is thus given by Petronius: 'To us, who were drink-

ing and admiring the splendour of the entertainment, a silver model of a man was brought by a servant, so contrived that its joints and movable vertebrae could be bent in any direction. After it had been produced upon the table two or three times, and had been made, by means of springs, to assume different attitudes, Trimachis exclaimed, 'Alas, unhappy lot, how truly man is naught! similar to this shall we all be, when death has carried us away; therefore, while we are allowed to live, let us live well.' The same sentiments were used by the Jews in the time of Solomon, and 'the ungodly' of his time thus expressed themselves: 'Our life is short and tedious, and in the death of a man there is no remedy; neither was there any man known to have returned from the grave. For we are born at all adventure; and we shall be hereafter as though we had never been, . . . . come on, therefore, let us enjoy the good things that are present, . . . let us fill ourselves with costly wine and ointments, and let no flower of the spring pass by us; let us crown ourselves with rosebuds, before they be withered; let none of us go without his part of our voluptuousness; let us take leaves of our joyfulness in every place.' The intent, however, of this custom, with the Egyptians, was widely different; and, even if, from long habit and the increase of luxurious manners, the good warning it was intended to convey was disregarded, or failed in its effect, still the original intention was good, and cannot, in justice, be condemned as tending to immorality: and, though Herodotus, who merely says, that the guests were requested to 'observe that man, whom they would all resemble after death,' and were exhorted 'to drink and enjoy themselves,' omits to inform us if it was intended to convey a moral lesson, Plutarch expressly asserts this, and removes all doubt respecting the object they had in view. The idea of death, among the ancients, was less revolting than among Europeans and others, at the present day; and so little did the Egyptians object to have it brought before them, that they even introduced the mummy of a deceased relative at their parties, and placed it at table, as one of the guests; a fact which is recorded by Lucian, in his 'Essay on Grief,' and of which he declares himself to have been an eyewitness. After dinner, music and singing were resumed; men and women performed feats of agility, swinging each other round by the hand, or throwing up and catching the ball; and the numerous tricks of jugglers, both in the house and out of doors, were introduced to amuse the company."

Draughts was a common pastime, and "Rameses is himself portrayed on the walls of his palace at Thebes, engaged in the game of draughts with the favourites of his harem." The Egyptian grandees frequently admitted dwarfs and deformed persons into their household, originally, perhaps, from a humane motive, or from some superstitious regard for men who bore the external character of one of their principal gods, Ptah-Sokari-Osiris, the misshapen deity of Memphis; but, whatever may have given rise to the custom, it is a singular fact, that, already as early as the age of Osirtasen, more than 3500 years ago, the same fancy of attaching these persons to their suite existed among the Egyptians, as at Rome, and even in modern Europe, till a late period."

As Mr. Wilkinson reserves the subjects of mythology and embalming for a separate volume, we may state of the three volumes now before us, that they will remain a standard in our literature till, like the hieroglyphics of

Egypt, their vast antiquity may throw a mystery over them.

We may remark, on the subject of Egyptian money, that we are not aware of any specimen of the ring, either in gold or silver, having been found; which is certainly a curious fact when we consider the imperishable nature of these metals. The representations of the scribes weighing them as the price of goods, are frequent: in these they appear to be entire circles, and not like the ancient Phoenician money, open with two flattened terminations.

Of the advance of the Egyptians in civilization, an idea may be formed from the following notice of their laws, and the administration of justice:—

"Although in the case of murder, the Egyptian law was inexorable and severe, the royal prerogative might be exerted in favour of a culprit, and the punishment was sometimes commuted by a mandate from the king. Sabaco, indeed, during the fifty years of his reign, 'made it a rule not to punish his subjects with death,' whether guilty of murder or any other capital offence; but, 'according to the magnitude of their crimes, he condemned the culprits to raise the ground about the town to which they belonged.' By these means the situation of the different cities became greatly elevated above the reach of the inundation, even more than in the time of Sesostris; and, either on account of a greater proportion of criminals, or from some other cause, the mounds of Bubastis were raised considerably higher than those of any other city."

The following may remind us of many cases in our own police, the robbery of bankers' parcels, and other great thefts:—

"The Egyptians had a singular custom respecting theft and burglary. Those who followed the profession of thief gave in their names to the chief of the robbers, and agreed that he should be informed of every thing they might thenceforward steal, the moment it was in their possession. In consequence of this, the owner of the lost goods always applied by letter to the chief for their recovery; and, having stated their quality and quantity, the day and hour when they were stolen, and other requisite particulars, the goods were identified, and, on payment of one quarter of their value, they were restored to the applicant in the same state as when taken from his house. For being fully persuaded of the impracticability of putting an entire check to robbery, either by the dread of punishment or by any method that could be adopted by the most vigilant police, they considered it more for the advantage of the community, that a certain sacrifice should be made, in order to secure the restitution of the remainder, than that the law, by taking on itself to protect the citizen and discover the offender, should be the indirect cause of greater loss: and that the Egyptians, like the Indians, and I may say the modern inhabitants of the Nile, were very expert in the art of thieving, we have abundant testimony from ancient authors. It may be asked, what redress could be obtained when goods were stolen by those who failed to enter their names on the books of the chief; but, as it is evident that these private speculations would interfere with the interests of all the *profession*, the detection of such persons would inevitably follow, as the natural consequence of their avarice; and thus all others were effectually prevented from robbing save those of the privileged class. The salary of the chief was not merely derived from his own demands upon the goods stolen, or from any voluntary contribution of the rob-

bers themselves, but was probably a fixed remuneration granted by the government, as one of the chiefs of the police; nor is it to be imagined that he was any other than a respectable citizen, and a man of the greatest integrity and honour."

How wise, too, were their laws of debtor and creditor, when compared with ours!

"Usury was in all cases condemned by the Egyptian legislature; and when money was borrowed, even with a written agreement, it was forbidden to allow the interest to increase to more than double the original sum. Nor could the creditors seize the debtor's person: their claims and right were confined to the goods in his possession, and such as were really his own; which were comprehended under the produce of his labour, or what he had received from another individual to whom they lawfully belonged. For the person of every citizen was looked upon as the property of the state, and might be required for some public service, connected either with war or peace; and, independent of the injustice of subjecting any one to the momentary caprice of his creditor, the safety of the country might be endangered through the avarice of a few interested individuals. This law, which was borrowed by Solon from the Egyptian code, existed also at Athens; and was, as Diodorus observes, much more consistent with justice and common sense than that which allowed the creditor to seize the person, while it forbade him to take the ploughs and other implements of husbandry. For if, continues the historian, it is unjust thus to deprive men of the means of obtaining subsistence, and of providing for their families, how much more unreasonable must it be to imprison those by whom the implements were used?"

Mr. Wilkinson, we observe, does not agree with us, nor with Signor Rosellini, in thinking that Jews are represented on any of the Egyptian sculptures or paintings: he considers the Jewish-looking persons to be merely people of Syria. But in this, as in all other respects, we must now be contented to refer readers to the author's statements and arguments; the whole forming so vast a fund of information upon every subject or inquiry connected with ancient Egypt, so free from theoretical bias, and so consistent with reason and judgment, that there must be strong grounds, indeed, where any one would venture to differ from, or dispute his conclusions. New discoveries, like those of Colonel Vyse (described in our last *Literary Gazette*), will, probably, confirm many conjectures, throw light upon other points, and produce hitherto unknown data for our information: meanwhile, we repeat, Mr. Wilkinson's opinions must be received as the nearest approach to what we all seek—the truth.

We cannot close this so very inadequate notice of Mr. Wilkinson's work, without directing attention to the extraordinary and perfectly original nature of the illustrations. No fewer than four hundred and fifty prints are given for this purpose! and all of them copied most accurately by the author himself, from paintings on the walls of the tombs in Egypt, and particularly Thebes; the colours of which, though three thousand years old, are still as brilliant as if they had been laid on a week ago. These, indeed, are great adjuncts to the clear understanding of the history of a people, wonderfully complete and satisfactory, as elicited from their productions of art; whilst their language can only be, if at all, most imperfectly deciphered. It is truly astonishing,

and does honour to human industry and intellect.

*Description d'une Collection de Minéraux, formée par M. Henri Heuland, et appartenant à M. Ch. Hampden Turner, Rooksnest, County of Surrey.* Par A. Levy. 3 vols. 8vo. Avec un Atlas de 63 Planches. Londres, 1838. F. Richter et Haas, 30 Soho Square.

This work is a monument of private munificence, reflecting high and great credit upon the possessor of one of the largest and most complete museums of minerals in this country, in his having gone to the expense and trouble of publishing the contents of that museum in a manner so well calculated to be most conducive to the interests of science. It might, however, very fairly be asked why, since the work was published in England, was it not also printed and engraved here? Because, it will be answered, it is done cheaper on the Continent. Then we say, there is something wrong, and which requires correcting. If to publish desiderata in science, and the more refined the loss in their circulation must be, public spirited individuals must go abroad to get their works executed. There is something eventful in the whole history of the present work. The museum was originally formed by James Forster, and was continued by a well known mineralogist, Mr. Henry Heuland, till it was sold, in 1820, to Mr. C. Hampden Turner, who resolved upon its publication; a labour that was entrusted to Mr. Armand Levy, also a mineralogist, who has much distinguished himself in the natural historical method. Mr. Levy at that time resided in London, and a certain sum was allowed him every month. At the end of seven years, Mr. Levy proposed to publish the work at Brussels; and, in order to assist his going there, 100*l.* were advanced, and 15*l.* a month allowed to superintend the printing of the work; but in November 1828, Mr. Levy, having received a professorship at Liege, he discontinued his labours until 1832, when, having recommenced under a similar system of dilatoriness, and after having received more than 2000*l.*, it appears that it was taken out of his hands, and confided to Mr. E. Brookes, who accomplished the last thirty-four plates.

If a general reader should ask, what has been done by this very expensive publication? we should answer, the description and the figures of the crystals of a great number of very rare substances, and a great number of new varieties of form, have been communicated to the scientific world, and that in such a manner, that they can be incorporated in any systematic work which may hereafter be published, and which would be incomplete without a reference to the work now before us. The classification is very nearly that of Harvey's; and, altogether, it is one of the finest contributions to the science of crystallography which has been made since the days of that great man.

*The Poetical Works of Thomas Pringle, with a Sketch of his Life.* By Leitch Ritchie. 8vo. pp. 219. London, 1838. Mozon.

We earnestly recommend this volume to the attention and good feelings of the public. The poetical compositions of Thomas Pringle are intrinsically well worthy of preservation in a collected shape; and the work is published for the benefit of his widow, who, and his sister, have been left to the miserable pittance of an annuity of twenty pounds. The biographical sketch by Mr. Ritchie does him honour. It is unaffected and affectionate, and

depicts our late friend justly and truly, as our mind recalls him to ourselves. Pringle, under the great disadvantage of severe lameness, was a man of naturally buoyant and joyous spirit; in his pursuits active and laborious, ardent and enthusiastic. Yet, with these qualities, there was an evenness and moderation in his temperament which rendered him very amiable and estimable in the social relations of life, and in the usual intercourse of society. He was a person who could hardly be known without conciliating regard: at least such was our experience of this worthy individual. Mr. Ritchie respectfully and delicately offers a suggestion which we trust will attract notice in a proper quarter. The pension-list may be weeded, and ought not to exhibit one improper name: but would it not be graced by that of Pringle's poor widow, for even a small portion of the royal bounty flowing from a youthful female sovereign?

#### Lieut. Wellsted's Travels in Arabia.

Third Notice: Conclusion.

MUCH pleased as we have been with this publication, yet, having devoted to it a considerable portion of two of our numbers, we find that we cannot, in justice to the many other claims upon us, go into the details of the second volume. It refers partly to Egypt, but principally to Sinai, and surveys of the Red Sea, the Gulf of Akabah, and coasts of Arabia and Nubia. Lieut. Wellsted, we observe, and in such a case he is a great authority, recommends that both the routes between England and India should be established, i.e. by the Red Sea and by the Euphrates; and points out most important reasons for having two modes of communication. In other respects, the further illustration of Arab manners in this volume, are extremely interesting; and the whole completes a work of much present and future value.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

*The History of the French Revolution.* By M. A. Thiers. Parts I. to XIII. inclusive. Vol. I. pp. 384; and of Vol. II. pp. 336. London, 1838. Bentley.

THE position of M. Thiers gives great importance to his views of the Revolution, and every fresh No. which issues from the press, in this very cheap edition, shews us more and more of its historical and political value. The establishments are also deserving of high praise. Another Part, we believe, concludes the second Volume.

*Hints on the Case of Canada, for the Consideration of Members of Parliament.* Pp. 31. (Murray).—An exposition of the Canada question adverse to the ministers, but sensibly and temperately written; with some hints for the future, which seem deserving of attention.

*The Juvenile Sketch-Book,* by A. M. Hartley. Pp. 240. (Glasgow, Symington and Co.; Edinburgh, Oliver and Boyd; London, Whittaker, and Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.)—A nice collection in prose and verse—the former seemingly chosen for humour and deep interest; the whole well calculated to induce youthful reading.

*Brady on Wills.* 8vo. pp. 155. (London, Maxwell).—At a period when so great alterations have been made in the laws respecting wills, that no man, and hardly any lawyer, can tell what is safe and legal and what is not, this volume, containing all the information which can be given on the subject, is one of infinite and universal interest.

*J. C. Hudson's Plain Directions for Making Wills, &c.* 18mo. pp. 92. Longman and Co. is an abridged view of the same momentous question, and also well worthy of attention.

*Southey's Poetical Works, Vol. III.* (London, Longman and Co.)—This volume, with two charming illustrations (Keswick, Southey's House, &c. and the Summer Bower, Derwent, Island, both by T. Creswick, and engraved by the Findens); a numerous miscellany of the author's early productions; the Devil's Walk, at last set beyond controversy; inscriptions, &c., and Carmina on occasions befitting a Laureate long before Southey held the dubbing office, render this a very interesting portion of the new edition of our eminent poet.

*Burnet's History of England.* (London, Smith.)—Burnet's invaluable history, in one volume and most moderate price, needs no other recommendation than the notice of its useful form and wonderfully small cost.

*Village Pictures on the Llantony,* by the Rev. W. Palin, B.A., pp. 150. (London, Parker.)—Simple, appropriate, and instructive.

*Report of the Proceedings under a Breve of Indictment:* Peter Duncan against David Yoolou. B. L. Colquhoun, Advocate, 5vo, pp. 135. (Edinburgh, Clark.)—No cases are of more importance, of greater difficulty, or attended by so much contradiction, as cases of felony. This volume throws a strong light on all such questions, and is well worthy of medical and judicial attention.

*Celestial Scenery; or, the Wonders of the Planetary System displayed, &c.* by Thomas Dick, LL.D., pp. 559. (London, Ward and Co.)—An admirable book to put into the hands of youth and general readers. Independently of condensing the chief elements of astronomical science and actual observation from works of standard character, the author has supplied much matter of his own, the whole tending to illustrate the glory and perfection of the Deity in the plurality of worlds.

*The Lounger's Companion Book; or, Miscellaneous Collections in History, Criticism, Biography, Poetry, and Romance.* 2 vols. 12mo. (London, Orr.)—Books of this sort are all very good as far as they go. The selections generally do credit to the judgment of the selectors, and the various reading they supply is amply sufficient to give strength. But the chief objection to them is their very miscellaneous character. You may find every thing but what you want, and the work resembles an odd volume or two of an Encyclopedia, to take up occasionally and run over at random. Systematic productions for reference are more to our minds, than what are called omnium gatherum in a dozen of branches in literature.

*Characteristic Sketches of Young Gentlemen,* by Quis, Junr., pp. 68. (London, Kidd.)—We lately noticed a similar volume, in which varieties of young ladies were described: this does as much for ten classes of young gentlemen, such as the aristocratic, dandified, improving, spoonfed, literary, musical, &c. The portraiture shews observation; and some of the hits are not unamusing.

1. *Lucille: a Drama.* 2. *Woman's Faith: a Drama.* 3. *The Nervous Man: a Farce,* by W. Bayle Bernard.—We are glad to notice these three successful productions, from the dramatic pen of Mr. B. Bernard, in the cheapest of possible forms. The author has proved himself both a ready and a popular writer of pieces of this light and pleasing class for the stage.

*The Family Library, No. LXIV. The History of the Beattie,* &c., by H. A. Davenport, pp. 464. (London, Tegg.)—An interesting subject, and treated with much attention. The accounts of some of the captives possess a deep and melancholy curiosity; and the liberality of the publisher has extended the work far beyond the usual limits for such a price.

*The Church of England Preacher, Vol. II.* 12mo. pp. 212. (London, Harding.)—Twenty-one sermons by distinguished divines are comprehended within this neat and cheap volume.

## ARTS AND SCIENCES.

### STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

MR. PORTER in the chair.—The communication read was an account of the "Atelier de Charité," or charitable institution for employing indigent persons in manufacturing pursuits at Ghent. The paper is taken from the report of the governors of the institution, published in 1835. It does not contain such facts as are likely much to interest our readers; consequently, our report shall be brief. The Atelier de Charité, at Ghent, was founded in 1817, with the view of extirpating mendicity in that city: its success, after a trial of eighteen years, has fully answered the expectation of the governors. The principal manufactories carried on in the establishment are—Spinning of tow; weaving of cloth made from tow; spinning of the waste of flax; weaving of packing-cloths; spinning of wool; shoemaking; tailors' work; carpenters' work; lace-making; to which is to be added street-cleaning. Each of these pursuits is described separately, and the number of males and females employed is stated. During the severest winter months, an economical soup, the expense of which is defrayed by subscription, is distributed among the workmen; this soup costs only seven cents (1*lfd.*) a quart. The materials which compose it are better, and more likely to produce a savoury broth than those used in many of the union work-houses in our own country; we, therefore, subjoin the list. 550 quarts of the Atelier soup contains:—

	£ s. d.
44lbs. of meat, costing	8 10
11 Sack of potatoes	0 10 5
49lbs. of rice	0 7 4
114lbs. of carrots	0 1 10
Onions, pepper, salt, &c.	0 1 3
	<hr/> £1 9 8

With all this cheap and good soup, however, we find that the expense of the establishment, in 1834 (an ordinary year apparently), was 64,579 francs, and the receipts only 25,052 francs; excess of expenditure, 39,527 francs. But we go from these details to something nearer home. Appended to the report is useful table, shewing the different trades, small trades, and other works, which could be introduced with advantage into all gaols in the United Kingdom, under the improved penitentiary system of prison discipline, pointing out the works most eligible to employ prisoners during the different periods of imprisonment, from one month to seven years; and shewing the length of time in which a prisoner can acquire such a knowledge of each trade as will enable him to earn an honest livelihood for himself thereby, when the term of his imprisonment expires: also the probable sum a prisoner, when employed, will be able to earn per diem, so soon as he learns his trade. A few examples will illustrate this, and not be uninteresting. Prisoners committed for one, and not exceeding three months, might be taught ink-making, blacking-making, mop-making, netting, &c.; thirty-six trades are enumerated, all of which might be learned in periods varying from one day to one month, and would enable the prisoners to earn from 6d. to 1s. 6d. a-day. Prisoners committed for three, and not exceeding six months, might be taught nail-making, sieve-making, cork-cutting, wool-carding, or any one of twenty-four trades enumerated; all of which might be learned in periods varying from two weeks to one month, and would enable the prisoners to earn wages from 1s. to 1s. 6d. a-day. A list of twenty-seven trades, such as stone-cutting, coopering, and wool-combing, is furnished for prisoners committed for six, and less than nine months. These might all be learned in periods from two weeks to three months, and would yield wages from 1s. to 1s. 6d. a-day. The next class is for prisoners committed for nine to twelve months, and contains twenty-four trades. The last is adapted to prisoners committed for more than a year's imprisonment. It includes cabinet-making, carpentering, engraving, printing, weaving of all kinds, and other trades, to the number of twenty-eight; all of which might be learned in twelve months, and many in less; and which would enable the prisoner to earn from 1s. to 3s. a-day. The inspectors bear strong testimony to the important amelioration which the penitentiary system has introduced in many of the gaols in Ireland. A brief, but animated discussion, between Mr. Merivale of Oxford, and Mr. Rowland Hill, followed the reading of the paper. The former gentleman was opposed to such institutions as the Atelier; the latter as strongly supported them.

**INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.**  
**MONDAY.** P. F. Robinson, V.P., in the chair.—After the preliminary proceedings, the following papers were read:—‘On the restoration of the Temple of Jupiter Olympus at Athens, with illustrations by E. A. Blair, Architect.’ ‘On the relative Strength of Cast-Iron Beams, when subjected to a transverse Strain, being the result of a series of practical experiments, illustrated by the original models, by Charles Parker, Fellow.’ The following

Drawings, sent in for the Soane medal, were exhibited:—Two Series, being restorations of the Abbey of Saint Mary's, York, One Series, being a restoration of Kirkstall Abbey, Yorkshire; and one of Llanthony Abbey, Monmouthshire. The description which accompanied the former subject was read. The early history of this abbey appears to be lost in obscurity: it is, however, almost certain, that there was a monastery on the site during the time of the Saxons. Coming down to the Norman era, we have a very clear and precise account by Stephen, called the first abbot. He can only have been the first abbot of the new monastery which was built by him, as Roger de Hoveden (Howden) says, “In the year 1056, Leward, the brave earl of the Northumbrians, died, and was buried in the cloister of the monastery of St. Mary without the walls.” The first stone of a new, and much larger establishment, over which Stephen ruled, was laid by William Rufus, when he visited York, soon after his father's death. Stephen died in 1112. Stow mentions, that, during the time of Savarracus, the fourth abbot, the monastery was burnt in a dreadful conflagration: but it must only have been partial; for there is no record of rebuilding from the time of Stephen until that of Simon de Warwick, elected abbot in 1258, who appears to have raised the state of the monastery to one of great splendour and security. From the time of Simon until the dissolution the records are lost, and we have only the mere names of the eight remaining abbots: the remains, however, bespeak an almost entire rebuilding about the year 1450, when William Wells was abbot, he having been elected in 1423, and resigned in 1456, being appointed to the see of Rochester. Taking the epochs of the rebuilding of the different parts of the monastery from the remains, they divide themselves into five distinct periods:—1st, the Saxon, of which the only remains are the rough foundations of the east end of the church; 2d, the Norman, when the monastery was entirely rebuilt by Stephen, under the auspices of William Rufus, about 1100—the remains are the great gateway from Mary-gate, the vestibule to the Chapter-house (exceedingly beautiful as to plan and details), the misericord, the cellarar's office, the school of the monks, and the rough foundations of the north-east part of the east end of the church; 3d, the early English, when the church and chapter-house were entirely rebuilt by Simon de Warwick, from 1250 to 1290, of which there are extensive remains; as, also, of the 4th, the enriched Gothic, about 1450; 5th, the works that appear to have been going on during the time of the dissolution. The walls of a chamber of this period over the gateway are lined with brick: there is no appearance of this material being used before. From the comparative value of the northern abbeys and priories, as given in Dugdale's “Monasticon” by Stephens, the abbey of St. Mary's, York, was considerably the richest. The second part of the paper was a description of the plans of the restoration of the monastery, and of the buildings, apartments, and offices, &c., required by such establishments. The author had collected from the sources to which he had access—namely, Fosbroke's “British Monachism,” Whitaker's “History of Whalley Abbey,” Whitaker's “Richmondshire,” Burton's “Monasticon,” Dugdale's “Monasticon,” with the additional volumes by Stevens, Drake's “York,” and Wellbeloved's “St. Mary's Abbey;” all the information relating to the Benedictine abbeys—applied it to the remains of St. Mary's, which

he had visited, and measured daily, during the laborious excavations of 1827 and 1828; and had supplied the chasms and deficient parts by diligent study of the similar edifices which abound in Yorkshire, beyond any other district of England. The whole was most complete and interesting.

## LINNEAN SOCIETY.

MR. FORSTER in the chair.—Mr. Goadby exhibited a fine specimen of the *Cetonia goliata* of Fabricius, which constitutes the type of the genus *Goliathus* of Lamarck. Mr. Newman exhibited an extensive collection of lepidopterous insects, found by Mr. E. Doubleday in the vicinity of Trenton Falls, Canada, during the last summer. The collection contained a number of European forms, and others belonging to the warmer parts of America. Read, a paper ‘On the structure of *Cuscuta europaea*,’ by Charles Babington, Esq. The observations of the author confirmed those of Mr. Brown as to the existence of scales in the tube of the corolla, which both Smith and Hooker deny. Several new members were proposed; others elected.

## ANTI-DRY-ROT.

So rapid is our advancement in the knowledge of chemistry, and the application of the laws of nature, that no sooner is a discovery made of any useful desideratum than others start to supersede it. Not long since, it was announced to the world that corrosive sublimate, mingled with water, was a specific against dry-rot in wood. When it is used in sufficient quantities, and for a period long enough, it appears to be efficient for timber, but not for canvass. The specified expense for preparing a load of timber is one pound. It is feared that the quantity to render wood quite capable of resisting any attacks of dry-rot would require double that amount. A patent has very lately been taken out for the same purpose, which, it is stated, will cost scarcely one-tenth of the expense of corrosive sublimate, and has been found as effective in preserving canvass and cordage, paper and parchment, and other substances, as wood of the softest and the hardest nature. The Admiralty, whose officers, particularly Sir John Barrow, are most anxious to introduce any really efficient and cheap method of stopping the ravages of dry and wet-rot in our navy and dockyards, and to prevent the mildew and consequent destruction of canvass, have given immediate directions to have the trial made at Woolwich, to bring to the test the expectations of a specific of the most economical character having been discovered.

We shall now give a brief list of a few of the trials which have been furnished us, that the public may form some opinion of the justness of the claims of the patentee, who declares that the process is simple as well as inexpensive, and that not one experiment has yet failed.

About three years since, four pieces of wood, two of them unprepared and two prepared, were placed in a hole covered with wood in a state of dry-rot decay. At the expiration of twelve months they were taken out; the prepared were perfectly sound, the unprepared were quite decayed, and are preserved in an airtight case in the same decayed state.

On the 26th April, six pieces of lay cord were dipped in the solution, and one in corrosive sublimate: those, together with one unprepared, were soaked in water, and then placed wet in a damp cellar, where they remained until the 21st of September following,

nearly five months. Those which had been subjected to the new process were found to be perfectly sound, and required from 55*1/2* to 82 lbs. weight to break them; that prepared with corrosive sublimate, and that unprepared, broke with the slightest strain.

On June 20th, 1837, three pieces of canvass, folded up, were prepared by the new process; one with corrosive sublimate, and one unprepared, were placed in a dung-pit, covered over, where they remain, and may be examined. The three pieces are perfectly sound. The pieces prepared with corrosive sublimate and unprepared are quite rotten. Several pieces, under similar preparations, were put into a damp cellar, with exactly the same results. Canvass so prepared will be most useful on the sleepers of railways.

On September 21st, pieces of old parchment deeds were prepared, and afterwards soaked in water, and placed on a wet stone slab in a cellar, where it remains perfectly dry and clean, and the engrossing uneffaced; the corresponding unprepared piece, by its side, is covered with mildew, and in a state of rapid decay.

The discovery of so efficient a preservation for canvass, as well as wood, in addition to its maritime importance, and also its military uses, is of great consequence for preserving works of art. No artist, for his own fame, should ever use canvass unprepared, if shewn to possess the qualities attributed to it.

## ANTI-COMBUSTION DISCOVERED.

We have now before us a piece of muslin, which, on being put into the flame of a candle, or thrown into the fire, merely carbonises without flaming; so that any woman, dressed in materials so prepared, cannot be burnt by any of those accidents by which the young and the aged too often suffer the most painful deaths. The finest colours are not effected by the process. It is equally applicable to every substance, from the canvass of a ship-of-war to the finest lace. For the curtains of beds, the furniture of rooms, the coverings of sofas, and all those materials which often cause conflagration. It also prevents the attacks of mildew. Papers subjected to great heat only carbonise, and leave the writing, or the numbers and value of bank-notes legible. The general utility of this discovery will command attention. We understand that a foreign government has commanded its use, and that a company is forming here for its immediate introduction. The process, like all useful things, is simple in the extreme, and about as expensive as starching a dress!

## LITERARY AND LEARNED.

## ROYAL SOCIETY.

THE following is our report on Mr. Faraday's paper entitled, ‘Experimental researches in Electricity,’ 11th series, the reading of which is now concluded. This paper aims at a very high object, namely, the establishment of a new theory and new views of the nature of electric induction. Mr. Faraday's investigations are really what they are called, *experimental researches*; and if he establishes his arguments, it must be of the utmost consequence to the advancement of electrical science, because induction is one of the most fundamental principles of electrical action, and enters into, perhaps, every electrical phenomenon. The author's mind has for years been directed towards the view which he now, with some expressions of anxiety, sets forth. He begins by remarking upon the absolute impossibility of charging any kind of matter with

one electricity if unrelated to the other condition of that force. He describes experiments upon the charge of conductors of liquids, of air, &c.; but in every case the two electric forces were found associated in exactly equal proportions. He refers to cases of evolution of electricity; but here again one force is never evolved without evolution of the other. This led him, by a chain of reasoning which we have not room to follow here, to believe that the two forces being always present, and generally in the condition called induction, were present, not merely in places distant from each other, as the usual phenomena would seem to imply, but were in every molecule of the matter concerned in the action; and that induction, instead of being, as usually stated, an action of electrical force at a distance, and in right lines, was essentially an action of *continuous* particles, the lines of inductive force often being *curved* and *contorted* in a remarkable manner. To test this view he sought for phenomena which, not being the same as deduced from the two theories, would be indications of their relative accuracy and importance; and, in the first place, sought for the assumed action in curved lines, and for the specific inductive action which different media would, under his particular view of induction, probably present. The paper then goes on to describe certain apparatus used by the author. The first is a Coulomb's torsion balance. The next are two induction vessels, consisting each of an uninsulated external metallic sphere, and an inner insulated sphere, also of metal. Various gases, and other substances, could be introduced into the interval between the concentric spheres, and, by charging the inner sphere, inductive action made to take place through them. Experimental facts cannot be described, although their results may be stated in few words, so that we cannot detail the proofs which the author of the paper brings forward, with any reasonable hope of carrying conviction to our readers' minds. The experiments on induction in curved lines are of this nature; an electrified body, being insulated, has an uninsulated metallic ball placed near it, which, assuming the opposite state to the former body, is then examined over its whole surface, and found charged in places which are not visible from the original source of electricity, and can only be joined with it by curved lines. This principle of investigation is carried out through many singular cases, and in various insulated bodies, all proving the truth of the new view, that induction is not necessarily in straight lines. Then a peculiar condition of insulating bodies due to conduction is described and analysed, which, not being understood, would lead to errors in the after results. Next follows the investigation of specific inductive action. The inductive vessels, spoken of above, are alike in shape, size, and every other circumstance; but the space between the two spheres, in one can be filled with one substance, whilst, in the other, another substance can be introduced. If this one apparatus, being charged, has its charge divided with the other, a comparison of the effects due to the two differing substances can be made. In this way it was found that bodies differed much from each other, and that inductive action varied, though the distance of the conducting surfaces was the same—glass, lac, and sulphur,—having nearly twice the power of air. Amongst air or gases, all were found alike; and, whether rare or dense, hot or cold, damp or dry, no difference amongst them was detected by the apparatus used. At the conclusion, the author again states his view of inductive action, and

his belief that he has, by the facts advanced, established its truth. He refers to a peculiar transverse action or condition of the lines of inductive force, equivalent, perhaps, in static electricity to magnetism in current electricity. This, with many other points and confirmations of his views, he promises in a second paper; and we understand he has already deemed that promise by sending in his twelfth series of experimental researches to the Royal Society.

## ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

JANUARY 6.—Professor Wilson, in bringing before the notice of the meeting a letter from John Shakespear, Esq. the chairman, pointed to a singular inscription, presented by John Romer, Esq., which had been received by that gentleman from a friend who had returned from the Eastern Islands. The inscription appeared, from the Chinese seal-marks upon it, to have been written in China, and was, at first, supposed to contain merely ornamental specimens of calligraphy. A closer inspection, however, shewed it to be Arabic; although, from the oddly contorted forms of the characters, it was difficult to discover its meaning. The letter of Mr. S. stated that he had transcribed and translated the whole of it; that it consisted of various invocations to the Divinity, consisting of the Mohammedan *asmá husna*, or glorious names by which the Deity is addressed. Mr. S. supposed that the whole was intended as a *taawiz*, or amulet; and said that it was chiefly remarkable for the unusual manner of writing, being, apparently, performed with a Chinese pencil. The transcript and version were laid upon the table. At the head of the inscription was the usual *Bismillah*, in large characters, nine inches in length; then forty-eight lines, each beginning with the words, "My God, thou art the"—and ending with "therefore to thee be the praise;" and, at the bottom, another line of similar import, with the addition of a benediction on the prophet.—The director then read some extracts of letters from Lieut. G. Fulljames, of the Bombay army, communicated by Sir Charles Forbes, containing an account of some splendid fossil remains found by him on the island of Perim, at the entrance of the Red Sea, consisting of portions of the mastodon, *Paleotherium*, mammoth, hippopotamus, and other animals. Being of opinion that this island had been, at some former period, connected with the main-land, he resolved to try if similar remains could not be found there also. In this attempt his opinions were fully confirmed: he found other fossil remains of a similar nature to those on the island, but less perfect, from having been a long while exposed to the sea and atmosphere. The separation of the islands from the main, Lieut. Fulljames attributes to the action of the sea; the force of which is very great in that part, the rise of the tide being from 35 to 40 feet, and its velocity averaging seven to ten knots an hour. The conformation of the coast also shews, that during S.W. monsoon the power of the sea must be tremendous. Lieut. Fulljames further mentioned, that he was engaged in boring at Gogah, on the gulf of Cambay; that he had reached a depth of 330 feet; and that he had some indications of coal, which would be of great importance to the steam-navigation of India.—A paper by Dr. Stevenson 'On the Anti-Brahminical Worship of the Hindus in the Dekkan' was then read.' The writer first observes, that many persons had supposed that all Hindus followed the same faith, and were worshippers of the same deities; and, although

it was now better understood that there existed different religious systems in India, yet it was a common opinion that Brahminism was the original religion, and that it was universal until trenched upon, first by Buddhism, and then by Mohammedanism. But it would be seen, on a close observation, that Brahminism had by no means extended itself over the whole of the population; there was evidently a different form of idolatry existing among the people, which must have preceded the Brahminical creed, and which had resisted any considerable amalgamation with it. His own observation, it was true, went no further than the Maharatna population of the Dekkan, but he apprehended that similar facts would be elicited in other parts of India. The doctor cited, in the first place, the traditions existing among the Brahmins themselves, that they had originally come from the countries north of the Himalaya mountains; and observed upon the fairer complexion and bolder features of that caste. He also mentioned the fact, that the Bhils, Ramusis, Kolis, and other hill tribes, have no communication with the Brahmins in religious matters, admitting their interference solely in civil affairs, and that the deities of these people are not admitted by the Brahmins to be such. The writer then described the worship of Vetal as it existed among the people of the Dekkan. This god, to whom extraordinary powers were ascribed, was worshipped in an enclosure of stones, not unlike a druidical circle. Sometimes there were two circles, but more commonly one. They were often painted red, with white tops, so as to convey an idea that fire was intended to be represented. The god himself was a shapeless stone like the rest, though sometimes, but rarely, he had some semblance of a human form without arms or legs. Vetal was worshipped in sickness, and vows were then made which were paid on recovery. A cock was the usual votive offering, a remarkable coincidence with the worship of the Greek Esculapius. The paper went on to describe the manner in which offerings were presented on this occasion, and afterwards pointed out other occasions on which the aid of Vetal was invoked; and concluded with a promise to communicate, at a future time, accounts of some of the other ancient deities in the Dekkan. When the reading of the paper was concluded, Professor Wilson said that he agreed with the writer as to his statement of the confinement of Brahminism to towns and highways; and observed that, if any traveller should penetrate into the more secluded portions of Hindustan, he would find but few traces of Vishnu, Krishna, Siva, or any other deities of the Hindu Pantheon: he must observe, however, that Vetal is not an individual deity; it is merely the appellation of a spirit or demon, and that varied forms of superstitions are called the worship of Vetal. Colonel Briggs said he could speak from experience of the South of India, that Brahminism had not spread there. In Nagpur, Kandeish, and the Karnatic, the nations had no other religion than that of propitiating evil: they expressed no feeling of gratitude for any good received from the divinity; but they feared evil, and, consequently, made offerings to demons, and even to tigers, snakes, thunder, and storms. Most of the peninsula was inhabited by persons not Hindus. In Nagpur only a quarter of the population, at most, were Hindus. He confirmed Professor Wilson's observation, that Vetal was not an individual deity, but only a name for any demon.

## LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

**Monday.**—Royal Geographical, 9 P.M.; Medical, 8 P.M.  
**Tuesday.**—Zoological, 8½ P.M.; Royal Medical and Chirurgical, 8½ P.M.; Institute of Civil Engineers, 8 P.M.  
**Wednesday.**—Society of Arts, 7½ P.M.; Medico-Botanical, 8½ P.M.  
**Thursday.**—Royal Society, 8½ P.M.; Antiquaries, 8 P.M.; Royal Society of Literature, 4 P.M.  
**Friday.**—Royal Institution, 8½ P.M.  
**Saturday.**—Westminster Medical, 8 P.M.

## FINE ARTS.

## THE COINAGE OF ENGLAND.

ONE of the novelties which a change of sovereign produces, is the issue of an additional series of coins to those which the collector has already stored in his cabinet; another link in the long chain from Egbert to Victoria, a period of 1037 years, and in which are only wanting the coins of Ethelbald and Edmund Ironside. The English series is, therefore, the longest, and most perfect of any, ancient or modern. The present series of milled money may be considered to commence with Oliver Cromwell's coins, by Simon, though there are coins struck by the screw, of Elizabeth and Charles I.; but the early coins of Charles II. are hammered. After Simon's, follow those of Charles II., by Roettier; and, subsequently, we have Queen Anne's by Croker. Against these the present chief engraver of her majesty's mint has to oppose his series of George IV. coins of 1826, and William IV. 1831. We consider that there is no question as to their superiority over Roettier's and Croker's: Simon's have uncommon merit. The real portrait of Oliver is, probably, on Simon's previous medal for the victory at Dunbar; but the idealised and laureled bust of the sovereign Protector of England on the coin, is magnificent and characteristic. The elevated brow, the compressed lip, and the speaking eye, are all in keeping with the mottoes on the reverse—"Felix queritur bello:"—and on the edge—"Hannisi peritus mili adimat nemo;"—while the breadth, softness, delicacy, and finish of the workmanship, would have given interest and value to any bust represented by such an engraver as Simon. How much more, then, of one who, however he ascended the throne (as in effect he did) of Britain, yet, when seated on that throne, all must concur nobly upheld its honour and glory, at home and abroad.

There is equally great characteristic expression in Mr. Wyon's series of the coins of George IV. and William IV. In the former, we have all the elegance, and dignity, and courtesy appearance, of the prince of Europe; in the latter, the placid, natural, quiet aspect of a straightforward, well-intentioned man. In both, the workmanship is admirable. The truth with which every line and muscle is represented, and the softness with which all the parts melt into each other, leave nothing to be desired. Compare them with the coins of the present or late Emperor of Austria; with those of Russia, Sweden, Prussia, Spain, or Louis Philippe's, whose series we think is the best on the Continent, and the result places the present coinage of Great Britain immeasurably above that of any other state in Europe; and we come to this conclusion, having the opportunity, in the cabinet of a friend, of comparing all the coinages in circulation in the four quarters of the globe. Louis Philippe's coinage, since 1832, has a fine Jupiter Dodona bust, but it is very edgy and harsh in the lines. There is a very fine dollar of Ernest, Prince of Saxe Coburg, 1829. The head is dignified, and the features defined and smooth. The King of Bavaria has some dollars, A. D. 1828,

of very high merit, by Voight. The head is speakingly alive, and with as much softness as animation. The reverses are historical. One has on it the queen and eight children. There is a historical ruble just issued at the mint of Petersburg, with the portrait of Alexander—reverse, the column just finished to his memory. It is singular that, since the death of Catherine, with this exception, the Russian coins have neither the bust, name, nor title of the sovereign on them. The head of Alexander is very neatly engraved.

The manifestation of ardent affection to our virgin sovereign, has proved that the age of chivalry "has not passed away." Her loyal but distant subjects in every part of the united kingdoms, who, unable to see herself, must be contented with her portrait, as well as the lovers of the Fine Arts, and the collectors of the numismatic records of our history, all anxiously await

"The coin, that faithful to its charge of fame,  
Thro' climes and ages bears Victoria's name;  
Where verse and sculpture bear an equal part,  
And art reflects her images to art."

#### NATIONAL ARTS AND INDUSTRY.

At a moment when emulation is rife, and schools of design are about to spring up in every town, the long-expected government returns from France and Prussia will, no doubt, prove highly interesting and useful: we, therefore, submit, at the earliest opportunity, the following details from them.

The French returns inform us that there are, in France, four principal schools—those of Paris, Lyons, Dijon, and Toulouse.

In many chief departmental towns there are also libraries, museums, and schools, where the principles of drawing constitute an elementary portion of the people's education; and, in a few years, it will be extended to all. In these, the object is to teach the principles of drawing in reference to objects of industry,—not to create artists.

The only school mentioned where a professor teaches the application of art to manufactures, is that of Lyons, where it is applied to the silk-loom.

In the four principal schools no fee is paid by students; and the museums and libraries, as well as those of Rouen, Bordeaux, Strasburgh, Nancy, &c. are open gratuitously to the public. In Paris the whole expense is paid by the state; at Lyons, Dijon, and Toulouse, it is partly by the state, and partly by the municipality. In Paris the professors are elected by the majority of the professors in their assembly, and confirmed by the king. In small towns they are appointed by the municipal authorities, and confirmed by the minister of the interior.

At the Royal School of Arts in Paris, there are nineteen professors, viz. seven painters, five sculptors, three for architecture, one for anatomy, one for history, one for mathematics, and one for perspective. There are in the schools trials of skill to determine the rank of the students. There is no account of the number of students, nor of the premiums awarded to them; neither is there any mention of the inferior drawing-school in Paris, the Polytechnique, the Lycées, and other colleges, where drawing is a subordinate part of education.

The exhibition of modern art in Paris is annual; that of mechanical, chemical, and other productions, every five years. Occasionally, exhibitions of the latter description take place in other towns. They are all open gratuitously to the public.

Prussia possesses two royal academies, supported by government; one at Berlin, founded in 1697, and one at Dusseldorf, first established in 1777, but reorganized in 1819.

That of Berlin has fixed (unchangeable) rules and regulations. It consists of ordinary, honorary, and extraordinary members. The academical artists (*quare*, ordinary members?) are elected by the senate of the academy, and confirmed by the ministry of public instruction, &c. who name the members and assessors of the *senatus academicus*, and have authority over all establishments to promote the arts.

The Academy at Dusseldorf has no prescribed fixed regulations, and consists of one director, five masters, and three assistants, without honorary or other members. It is, in fact, a school under government.

#### Number of Students.

In First Class—artists .....	38
ditto in landscape .....	27
For formation of painters .....	30
In antique .....	37
Architecture .....	15
Elementary .....	44
And in the Sunday school .....	79
Total .....	270

*Hours of instruction*—two or three hours daily in each department, i.e. drawing, painting, polishing, architecture, anatomy, engraving, and history of art.

The poor are admitted to study gratuitously; but those who can afford it, pay—

For admission .....	1 Dollar.
On promotion to higher classes .....	3 —
For instruction in the drawing-school (half yearly) .....	2 —
— from plaster casts .....	2 —
Architecture and perspective (annually) .....	4 —
Town architecture .....	4 —

All other instruction is gratuitous.

At the Berlin Academy there are about twenty professors in painting, drawing, modelling, architecture, engraving, ditto on wood, letter and card cutting, anatomy, history of modern painting, mythology, working in metals, the construction of columns, perspective and optics, &c.

#### The number of students is:

After the living model .....	70
From casts .....	44 to 51
Probationary class .....	22 .. 32
Drawing from anatomical .....	51 .. 58
Landscape painting .....	49
Animal ditto .....	12 .. 16
Ornament drawing .....	10 .. 17
Engraving .....	6 .. 7
Ditto on Wood .....	6 .. 7
Letter and card cutting .....	1
Perspective and optics .....	32
Design & construction of columns .....	24
Ancient and modern building ..	2 .. 7

#### Practical exercises in the school of fine arts :

In Summer. In Winter.	
Free hand drawing .....	312 .. 582
Modelling after casts .....	57 .. 70
Geometrical architecture ..	90 .. 162

529 817

Instruction at this academy is wholly gratuitous; the expense being paid by the state.

There are also government schools at Breslau, Danzig, Erfurt, Magdeburg, and Konigsberg, where drawing of architecture and machinery are taught; and, at Berlin, a mechanics' institution, in which instruction is given in drawing, chemistry, natural philosophy, mathematics, casting, construction of machines and buildings. It has 85 scholars. Nineteen other institutions of the kind have been established, and others are intended.

The whole of these, as well as the Berlin school of architecture, appear to be entirely paid by government; the small fees at Dusseldorf (which are probably intended to induce regular attendance) being an exception.

The academies of Berlin and Dusseldorf

have each a library and a collection, which are open to the public every day except Sundays; but there is only one exhibition of modern art, which is held annually in the rooms of the Berlin academy, and managed by its members. An entrance-fee of about sixpence is charged, and the sum thus raised is distributed in premiums among the several schools of art throughout the kingdom.

There is also at Berlin a travelling prize of 500 dollars per annum, for three years. Every year there is one granted. It is given alternately to a painter, a sculptor, and an architect, the same as at the London Royal Academy; only the number of prizes is three times as great as with us. The students of Dusseldorf are admitted as competitors with those of Berlin.

It is to be regretted that the number of students and professors in the provincial establishments, and also in the great school of architecture, is not given. Other points of great importance, but less obvious, have, as usual, been omitted; but we trust that the great promoters of national education will, nevertheless, find, in what has reached us, scope for reflection and beneficial conclusions.

#### NEW PUBLICATIONS.

*J. D. Harding's Early Drawing-Book.* 1838. Tilt.

THOSE who are acquainted with Mr. Harding's works, will easily believe us when we say, that this is an admirable introduction to the practice of drawing. Perpendicular, horizontal, diagonal, and curved lines, are exemplified in a pleasing variety of simple, and familiar, and picturesque objects. The handling is masterly, and the effect broad and powerful. A careful study of these specimens must imbue even a novice with somewhat of an artist's feeling.

#### BIOGRAPHY.

##### LORD FARNBOROUGH.

WE have only time to announce, and with the deep regret of a friendship with which we have been honoured for very many years, the death of this much esteemed and respected nobleman, which took place at Bromley, on Wednesday last. At present all we shall say is, that in him the Fine Arts of his country have lost their steadiest patron and warmest protector.

#### DRAMA.

*Drury Lane.*—A new farce, by Buckstone, was produced here on Thursday, in which he took a principal part, and was well supported by Miss Poole and Mrs. Ternan, &c. It was as successful as his productions almost invariably are.

*Covent Garden.*—We have no changes here; the best of signs! *Macbeth* crams the house every Monday, and *Amilie* and the Pantomime do nearly as much for every other night.

The *Haymarket* closed a most successful season on Monday; proving that the legitimate drama, under proper management, and without puffing, is yet calculated to succeed amongst us. Mr. Webster returned his acknowledgement in a suitable speech.

*Adelphi.*—Mrs. Nisbett, from the close of the Haymarket, has found her way to the Adelphi as a *Lost Pleiad*, in a burletta of that name. It is a showy piece, with pretty scenery, and more than pretty music; which, if original (of which we are not sure), deserves even more favourable notice. Mrs. Nisbett plays the

character buoyantly, and is well supported by Miss Shaw and Miss Taylor. Lyon does much for his part; and Yates and Beverley (*Boreas* and *Zephyrus*) are winds enough for a pair of bellows.

*Olympic.—Shocking Events.* A new piece is not a shocking event for this lively theatre. Its fun consists of Farren's applications of surprise to cure Keeley of a supposed dumbness, the disease being only affected, to favour his escape from danger. The acting is very laughable. Miss Lee, as a soubrette, the sweetheart of Keeley, plays archly and prettily; and Bland, as a choleric officer, is also deserving of laudable notice.

On Thursday (a night rather late for us), a new piece was produced here, called the *Black Domino*. It is got up with all the care and beauty so peculiar to this theatre: and was completely successful. Madame Vestris has a capital character, both acting and musical, to which she gave the utmost effect, and was enthusiastically applauded. Mr. C. Mathews, *et cetera*, did excellently in their various parts, which we cannot now particularise.

#### VARIETIES.

*Weather Wisdom.* — The storm of frost and snow continuing severely throughout the week, is the best comment on the prophecies in our last. For the future: — “The 20th day milder and fairer; though rain or sleet prevails about the 21st: night cold and windy. The Sun aspects Jupiter on the 23d: the air grows milder and fairer. The new Moon denotes wind and clouds.” — *Morrison.* “20th. Fair; probably the lowest degree of winter temperature. 21st, 22d, and 23d. Changeable. 24th. Rain. 25th. Rain and wind. 26th. Fair.” — *Murphy.*

*Literature and Art.* — According to the Supplement to Bent's Monthly Literary Advertiser for 1837, there appears an increase of New Publications on the year, the number of books amounting to 1380 (1800 volumes), exclusive of new editions, pamphlets, or periodicals, being 130 more than in 1836. The number of Engravings is 98 (including 38 Portraits), 10 only of which are engraved in the line manner, 71 in mezzotinto, and 17 in chalk, lithography, &c. &c.

*Livesay's Moral Reformer, No. I.* — This is a Preston pennyworth of periodical instruction, and directed to the benefit of the working classes. It enforces self-moral reform, temperance (tea-totalism), economy, prudence, and seems well calculated to do good. Among the papers is one on shrewd remarks by children, where we find the following instance: — “It is against the will of God for soldiers to kill men,” said a father, in conversation respecting war. “Yes,” replied a child; “it is of no use for God to make men for soldiers to kill them.”

*The Torch, Parts I., II., III., and IV. Nos. XX. and XXI. (London, Lloyd).* — This clever contemporary is so largely political, that it has hardly come within the scope of our notice. As it, however, also reviews new works, and has literary matter, though chiefly of a party-colour, we may mention it among the periodicals of the day as highly Conservative, and displaying ready and considerable talent.

*Booksellers' Provident Institution.* — We have great pleasure in stating that the Rev. Lancelot Sharpe, M.A. Head Master of St. Saviour's Grammar School, has presented the above Institution with a liberal donation.

*Saturn's Rings.* — It is stated in the “Leipsic Gazette,” from the last No. of “Schumacher's Astronomical Notes,” that Professor Encke, of Berlin, has discovered a third ring surrounding the planet Saturn.

*The English Squire; a Song.* The Words by Stephen Oliver; the Music by D. Blake; and illustrated with six characteristic Etchings by Phiz. London, Spiers. — This, we can hardly call it *jeu d'esprit*, though its merits are allied to that class, is a good lyric picture of an English squire, not of the older times, but of about fifty years ago, with his dressed hair, coach and six, fox-hounds, &c. &c., and being accompanied by half a dozen clever etchings, the little volume is altogether a pleasing and pretty publication.

*Verses to Sir Holly and Madame Mistletoe.* THE HOLLY and the Mistletoe! throughout the bygone year,

I've seen thee ever flourishing, thy leaves without a scar; And I have passed ye many a time a stranger to thy pride, Forgetting ye the emblems true of merry Christmas tide!

December's here! and as I stroll I look at ye with eyes

In which a glance of joyous warmth my past cold gaze supplies!

I could love ye when thy evergreens enslaved were to my will,

But when thy day had passed away, I could not love ye still!

But, come, old Holly hale and green, and slender Mistletoe!

True partners! for the future you my heart shall better know,

Though Christmas-day be over, when old friends, we meet again,

You'll find me never pass you by forgetful of this strain!

And now let's drink all health to ye, O noble Evergreens!

And on proceed to revelling and joyous Christmas scenes;

To dancing, singing, jollity, that nothing may alloy,

The amity so perfect that prevails on Christmas-day.

December's gloom is wanling; in the murk a sparkling star

Is by contrast gleaming brighter adown the vista far;

Hoor! though thy brow, at first, all sullenly's o'ercast,

[Cloudiness is past,

By the time thou'rt trudged to Christmase tides, its

As the sun bursts forth from stormy skies, that hath been times enshrouded it,

[Unclouded, it,

Does December's gloomy frigid face light up, and, all

Assumes a gaiety at Christmas times and jolly whimsicality,

[Jollity! I borrowed warmth, to thaw, *pro tem.*, his cold mate.

M.—M.

#### Matrimonial Altercation.

“Why so tart, sir, and hot?” “I confess, ma'am, 'tis silly, But the weather's in fault, I am really so chatty.”

“Don't make such excuse—for shame, Mr. Linnegar! I'm chilly myself, but I'm not *chill-einegar.*” R. J.

#### LITERARY NOVELTIES.

The Rev. H. F. Cary, the translator of “Dante” and “Pindar,” is engaged in editing a series of the British Poets, commencing with Pope's Poems and Translations.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

The Canadian Controversy; its Origin, Nature, and Merits, 8vo. 2d. — The Theory of the Differential and Integral Calculus, by T. Forbes, D.D. 8vo. 10s. 6d. — Thoughts on Tactics and Military Organisation, by Lieut.-Col. T. Mitchell, 8vo. 10s. 6d. — An Introduction to Hebrew Grammar, by W. T. Phillips, B.D. 2d edition, 8vo. 10s. 6d. — The Lounger's Commonplace Book, 2 vols. post 8vo. 14s. — William's Law of Executors, 2 vols. royal 8vo. 2l. 16s. — The Beast and his Image, by the Rev. F. Fysh, 8vo. 12s. — History of the Reign of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, 3 vols. 8vo. 2l. 2s. — Attila, King of the Huns, by the Hon. and Rev. H. Herbert, 8vo. 14s. — The Coleopterist's Manual, by the Rev. F. W. Hope, 8vo. 7s. — Practical Suggestions towards alleviating the Sick, 3d edition, 12mo. Part I. 3s.; Part II. 2s. — Institutes on Composition, 8vo. 3s. — Magazine of Popular Science, Vol. IV. 8vo. 1s. — Gill Bla Abrege, par De La Voste, 18mo. 4s. — G. W. Crawford's Examination Questions on Butler's Analogy, 4csm. 8vo. 2s. 6d. — The works of Jeremy Bentham, Part I. royal 8vo. 9s. — T. C. Colquhoun's System of National Education in Ireland, 12mo. 3s. — Raff Hall, by R. Sullivan, Esq. 3 vols post 8vo. 1l. 11s. 6d. — Medicine and Surgery one Inductive Science, by G. Macilwain, 8vo. 12s. — Reminiscences of the Spanish War, by Rev. T. Farre, post 8vo. 8s.

\* Perhaps the author means by this a *double entendre*; he would imply, first, that whilst, on the threshold of December, he imagines Christmas-day shining as a star before him in the month's distance of time, so to express it;—and, secondly, he would have no objection to admit an allusion to the morning star which typified the coming of the Saviour.—P. D.

#### METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1838.

January.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday .. 11	From 5° to 27	29° 27 to 30° 04
Friday .. 12	4° 5 .. 23	30° 17 .. 30° 25
Saturday .. 13	13 .. 26	30° 21 .. 30° 11
Sunday .. 14	18 .. 27	29° 95 .. 29° 63
Monday .. 15	1 .. 23	29° 73 .. 29° 74
Tuesday .. 16	9 .. 31	29° 74 .. 29° 63
Wednesday .. 17	16 5 .. 33	30° 07 .. 30° 11

Winds, N. and E., and S.W., the former prevailing.

Except the afternoons of the 12th, 14th, and following, generally cloudy; snow fell on the 11th, 14th, 16th, and 17th. The very low state of the thermometer has not been equalled during the past eighteen years: upon reference to our journal\* for January 1820, we find two remarkable coincidences, viz. that during the previous days of the week the wind had been, as now, from the N.E., and the thermometer falling to 1°; it is singular enough same low degree of temperature, and precisely the same change of the wind.

The severity of the frost has, however, been of longer duration than in 1820, having continued without intermission, from the evening of Sunday the 7th, and yet no indication of a change.

Edmonton, Latitude ..... 51° 37' 32" N. Longitude ..... 0° 31' W. of Greenwich.

Extracts from a Meteorological Register kept at High Wycombe, Bucks, by a Member of the Meteorological Society. November 1837.

Thermometer-Highest.....	52° 75 ..	22d.
Lowest .....	21 50 ..	8th.
Mean .....	37 13 125	
Barometer-Highest.....	30 16 ..	7th.
Lowest .....	28 56 ..	1st.
Mean .....	29 67 61	

Number of days of rain, 16. Quantity of rain, in inches and declin., 200.

Winds.—1 North-East—0 East—2 South-East—5 South—3 South-West—9 West—8 North-West—2 North.

*General Observations.* — The month was colder than any November during the last fourteen years; the barometer was higher than the average of the month, although the maximum has been exceeded frequently, and the quantity of rain was more than has fallen, in the corresponding month, since 1833. A most brilliant rainbow was seen on the 1st, at a quarter past 3 P.M. The aurora on the evening of the 12th was not of long continuance here; at 6 P.M. some red rays shot up from the north-east, and a slight tinge of red was observed in that direction, which at intervals became more brilliant, the moon shining brightly in the north-east; but clouds soon collected, obscured the moon, and the aurora shortly afterwards disappeared.

December.	Thermometer-Highest.....	51 25 ..	24th.
Lowest .....	23 00 ..	3d.	
Mean .....	38 61 895		
Barometer-Highest.....	30 20 ..	4th.	
Lowest .....	29 01 ..	20th.	
Mean .....	29 67 752		

Number of days of rain and snow, 12. Quantity of rain and melted snow, in inches and declin., 19625.

Winds.—2 North-East—5 East—7 South-East—3 South—6 South-West—4 West—3 North-West—1 North.

*General Observations.* — The mean temperature was above those, in the same month, since 1833; but the maximum was four degrees lower in December last year. The range of the barometer was small, and the mean above the average of the month, but much lower than in the corresponding months in 1834 and in 1835. Snow fell on the 6th, and about two inches lay upon the ground on the morning of the 7th, but which soon melted. The quantity of rain and melted snow was much more than in the same months of the last three years. On the 18th, 19th, and 20th, it blew hard; and on the 19th half an inch of rain fell.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. B. P.'s paper will be applied when we take up the subject, probably next week or the week ensuing.

We request our readers' notice to the short article on Coinage in a preceding part of our Journal. The subject is important, and has as yet obtained very little, if any, notice from the press.

We are sorry to say, instead of *nihil desperandum*, that we can hold out no expectations to H. H. H. whose enthusiasm has interested us.

*ERRATUM.* — In the quotation respecting Glass and Porcelain in our last Number, page 20, col. I, l. 33, we give a palpable error, where the specific gravity of crown glass is stated to be “25° 23'”; instead, we presume, of 25° 23', which is near the mark.

\* See *Literary Gazette*, No. 157, January 22d, 1830, pp. 62; in another col. of the same page, is registered the extreme cold at Hamburg.

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Connected with Literature and the Arts.

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Waterloo Buildings, Waterloo. } J. CHARLIER,  
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30	6 4	1 10 10	1 10 9	1 10 9	3 8
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